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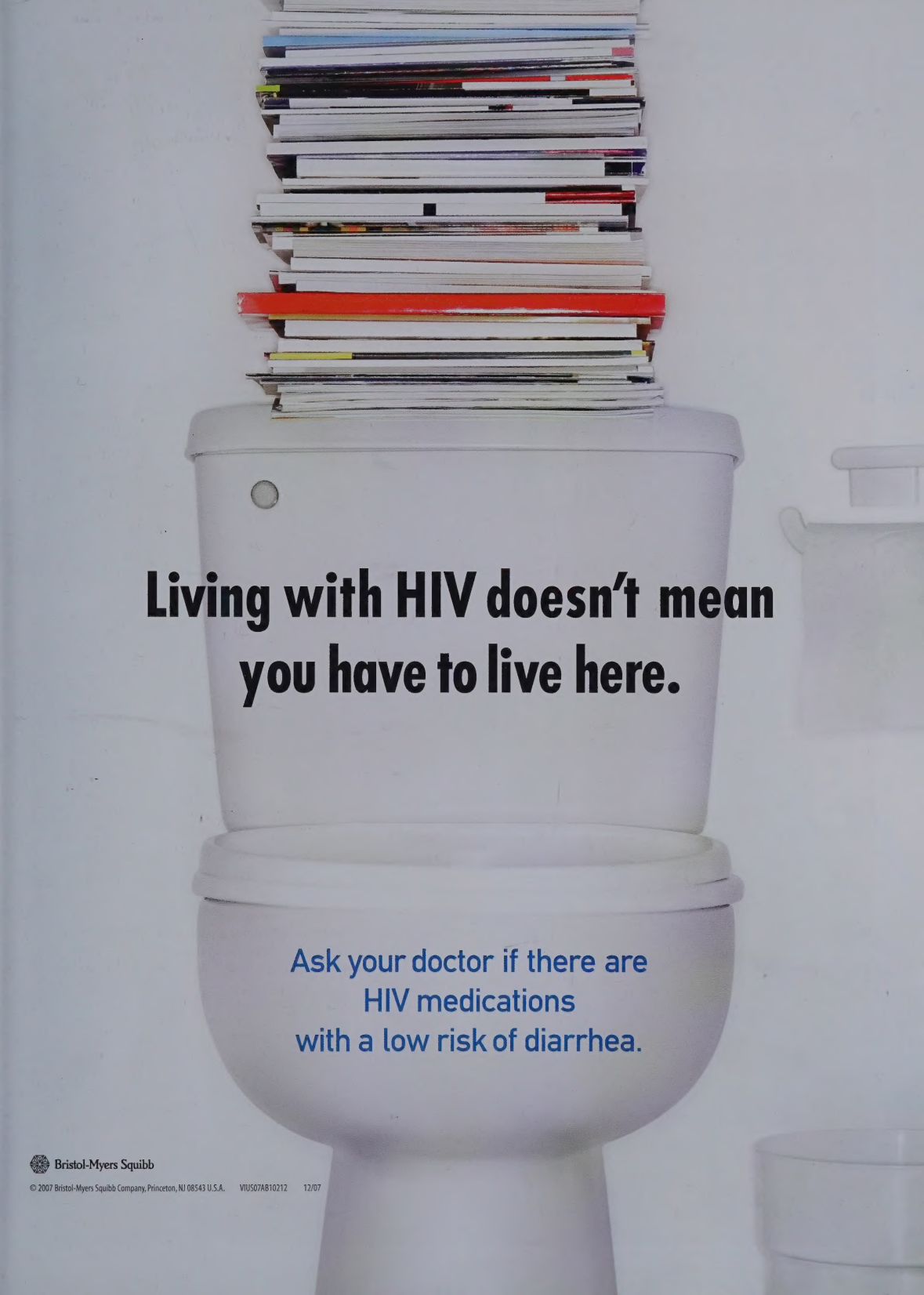
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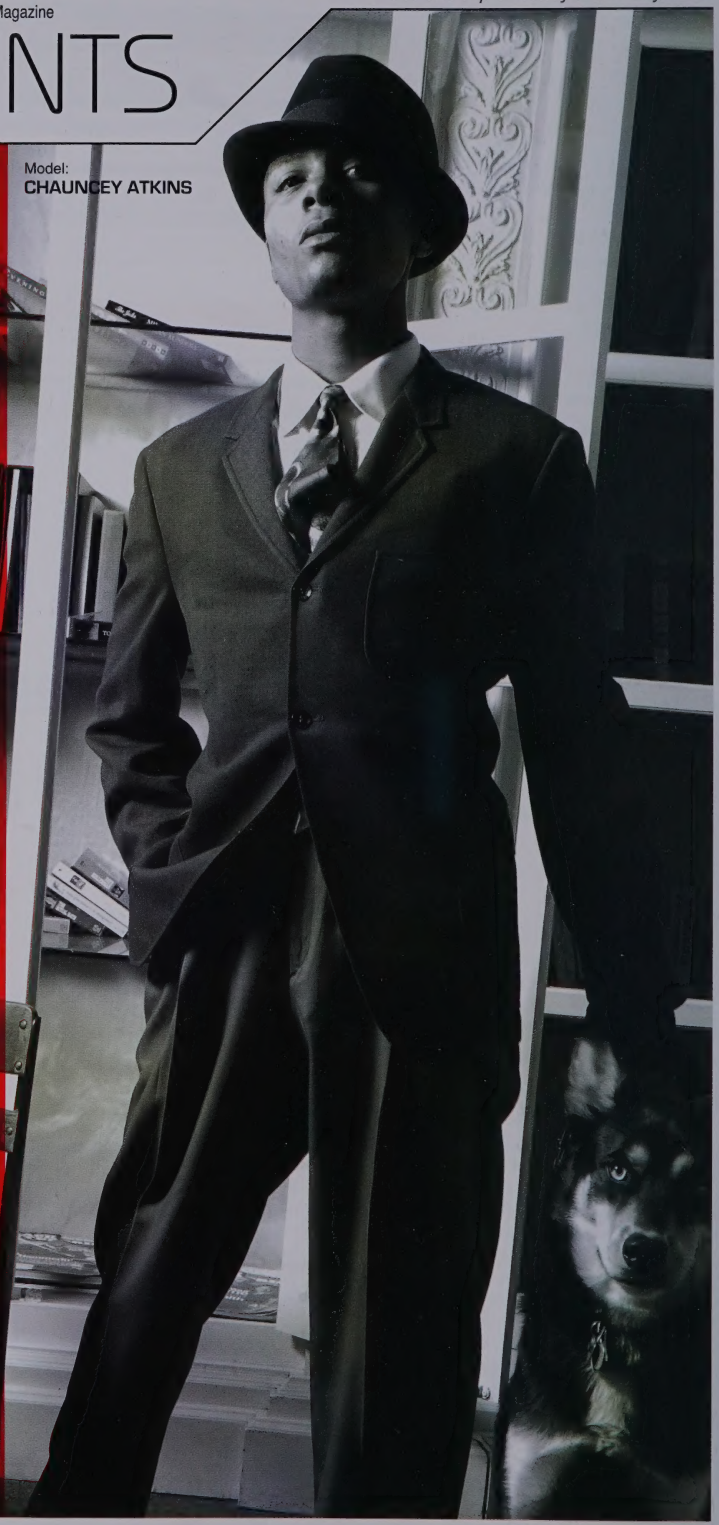

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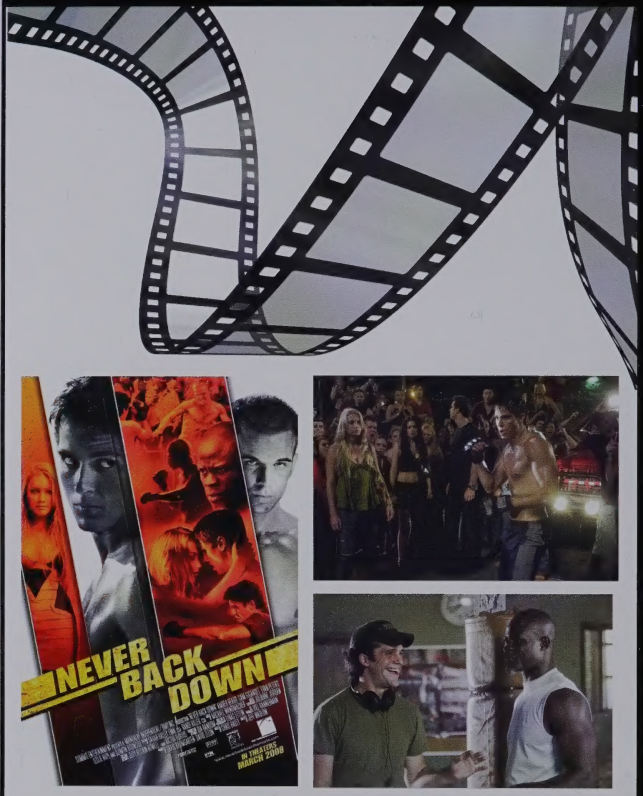


NEVER BACK DOWN March 14, 2008

Set against the action-packed world of Mixed Martial Arts, "Never Back Down" is the story of Jake Tyler, a tough kid who leads with his fists, and, often, with his heart. Jake Tyler, played by Sean Faris, is the new kid in town with a troubled past. He has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family who has relocated to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick tempered brawler.

Making an attempt to fit in, at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Baja (Amber Heard) Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with a bully named Ryan McDonald (Cam Gigandet). While he is defeated and humiliated in the fight, a classmate introduces himself to Jake and tells him about the sport known as Mixed Marshall Arts (MMA). He sees a star in Jake and asks that he meet with his mentor, Jean Roqua, played by Djimon Hounsou ("Blood Diamond," "In America").

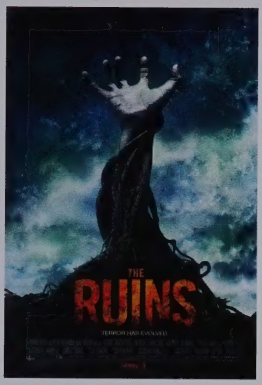
It is immediately apparent to Jake that MMA is not street fighting, but rather an art form he wants to master. Roqua will take Jake under his wing, but it is up to Jake to find the patience, discipline, willingness and reason within him to succeed. For Jake, there is much more at stake than mere victory. His decision will not just settle a score; it will define who he is.

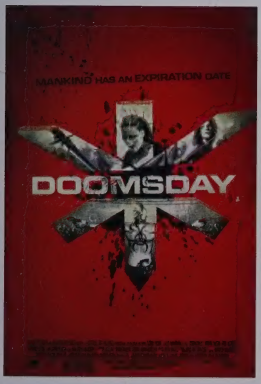
TYLER PERRY'S MEET THE BROWNS March 21, 2008

A funny, moving romantic drama about the power of love and family, Lionsgate's "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns" marks another winning portrayal of life by writer/director/actor Tyler Perry ("Diary of a Mad Black Woman," "Madea's Family Reunion") and features a return to the big screen by Madea, the indomitable, law-breaking, fun-loving grandma.

A single mother living in inner city Chicago, Brenda has been struggling for years to make ends meet and keep her three kids off the street. But when she's laid off with no warning, she starts losing hope for the first time – until a letter arrives announcing the death of a father she's never met. Desperate for any kind of help, Brenda takes her family to Georgia for the funeral. But nothing could have prepared her for the Browns, her father's fun-loving, crass Southern clan. In a small-town world full of long afternoons and country fairs, Brenda struggles to get to know the family she never knew existed...and finds a brand new romance that just might change her life.

Based on the popular stage production of the same name, "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns" is a charming story about the joys of family, and the possibility of second chances. "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns" was written and directed by Tyler, and produced by Reuben Cannon.





PROM NIGHT April 11, 2008
Donna's senior prom is supposed to be the best night of her life. After surviving a horrible tragedy, she has finally moved on and is enjoying her last year of high school. Surrounded by her best friends, she should be safe from the horrors of her past. But when the night turns deadly, there is only one person who could be responsible... a man she thought was gone forever. Now, Donna and her friends must find a way to escape the sadistic rampage of an obsessed killer, and survive a night "to die for."

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM April 18, 2008
In "The Forbidden Kingdom," An American teenager Jason (Michael Angarano), who is obsessed with Hong Kong cinema and kung-fu classics makes an extraordinary discovery in a Chinatown pawnshop: the legendary stick weapon of the Chinese sage and warrior, the Monkey King (Jet Li). With the lost relic in hand, the teenager unexpectedly finds himself traveling back to ancient China to join a crew of warriors from martial arts lore on a dangerous quest to free the imprisoned Monkey King.

SHUTTER March 21, 2008
A newly married couple discovers disturbing, ghostly images in photographs they develop after a tragic accident. Fearing the manifestations may be connected, they investigate and learn that some mysteries are better left unsolved.

THE RUINS April 4, 2008
Based on the Scott Smith novel, "The Ruins" centers on a group of friends whose leisurely Mexican holiday takes a turn for the worse when they accompany a fellow tourist on a remote archaeological dig in the jungle, where something evil lives among the ruins.

DOOMSDAY March 14, 2008
In the action-packed new thriller from writer/director Neil Marshall ("The Descent"), authorities brutally quarantine a country as it succumbs to fear and chaos when a virus strikes. The literal walling-off works for three decades – until the dreaded Reaper virus violently resurfaces in a major city. An elite group of specialists, captained by Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra), is urgently dispatched into the still-quarantined country to retrieve a cure by any means necessary. Shut off from the rest of the world, the unit must battle through a landscape that has become a waking nightmare.

STREET KINGS April 11, 2008
Keanu Reeves plays Tom Ludlow, a veteran LAPD Vice Detective. Ludlow sets out on a quest to discover the killers of his former partner, Detective Terrence Washington (Crews). Whitaker plays Captain Wander, Ludlo's supervisor, whose duties include keeping him within the confines of the law and out of the clutches of Internal Affairs Captain Biggs (Laurie). Ludlow teams up with a young Robbery Homicide Detective (Evans) to track Washington's killers through the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Their determination pays off when the two Detectives track down Washington's murderers and confront them in an attempt to bring them to justice.

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Forest Whitaker, Hugh Laurie, Chris Evans, Naomie Harris, Jay Mohr, John Corbett, Cedric the Entertainer, Amaury Nolasco, Terry Crews, Common, The Game

SPRING FORWARD INTO NEW MUSIC

This spring welcomes the return some of music's heavy-hitters and a second chance for some breakout artist. Which artist will have you bumpin their tunes? Check out this season's new releases.

Danity Kane (March 18th)
Welcome to the Dollhouse

Day 26
Day 26 (March 25th)

Looks like the bands of Bad Boy Records are finally ready for the release of their albums. Of course, both groups have been working with Diddy to complete their albums. "Surprisingly, he's a lot more hands on than what I would have thought he'd been. He's very active in both projects. Because of him, we have some hot records," Brian said. Dawn talked about his involvement, as well. "Diddy was very involved in our record. ... He respected our vision. At the same time, we respect him for his guidance and his vision," she said.

Danity Kane's album features production from Bryan-Michael Cox, Scott Storch, The Runners, Tha Corna Boys, The Stereotypes (who produced the single, "Damaged") and Danja. Danja produced "Striptease", which is written by Danity Kane. "Is Anyone Listening" is another track that Dawn called, "very deep - very powerful." "Poetry", "Key to My Heart" and "Lights Out" will also be featured on the album. "We have some really great interludes that should be full songs," D. Woods added.

The album from Day 26 will feature production from Cox, Mario Winans, The Runners, Danja, Jim Beans, Kwame, Melee and Adonis.

Cherish The Truth
(Sho'Nuff Records/Capitol)

'The Truth' is on the way, and judging from every early sign, Sho'Nuff Records quartet Cherish is about to prove beyond doubt that in 2008, America wants 'The Truth,' the whole 'The Truth' and nothing but 'The Truth.'

The Truth, the second album by CHERISH, will be released on April 29th, 2008. As on their first RIAA gold certified album, Unappreciated, the four sisters of Cherish (Farrah, Neosha, Felisha and Farron King) are primary songwriters throughout, and on this new project, they also collaborate with super-hot hitmaker Terius 'The-Dream' Nash. Album track producers include such top-tier names as Don Vito ("Killa"), Jazze Pha, Adonis & K-Fam, and Eric Hudson.

Madonna Hard Candy
(Warner Bros.)

Madonna has dubbed her final album of new material for her longtime Warner Bros. label "Hard Candy," and will release it on April 29.

The album, which features such songs as "Candy Store" and the first single "Four Minutes," is the follow-up to "Confessions on a Dance Floor." The title and release date were confirmed by Madonna's spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg. Entertainment Weekly quoted Rosenberg as saying the 49-year-old singer "loves candy."

"Hard Candy" will be Madonna's last studio release for Warner Bros. before she begins a wide-ranging 10-year recording, touring and merchandising deal with Artist Nation, a new initiative launched by concert promoter Live Nation.

Dem Franchise Boyz Da Point of No Return
(Universal/ Motown)

Back to build their brand of hard but mass-accessible rap, platinum-selling Virgin Records hip-hop group Dem Franchise Boyz have released a new single, "Talkin' Out Da Side of Ya Neck!" The track was produced by Bangladesh, who produced Kelis' recent international smash "Bossy." Currently impacting urban radio, DFB are enjoying the expected support in their solid Southern home base, with breakout radio leaders appearing in the Midwest. The video clip is an immediate add in rotation at BET's Rap City program.

Dem Franchize Boyz have completed their second album, Da Point of No Return, for planned release March 25, 2008. Collaborators in the studio have included T-Pain and Pleasure, of the vocal group Pretty Ricky. Track producers include superstar beatsmiths Mannie Fresh and Jazze Pha, Southern upstart Marvelous J, longtime collaborators Maestro and Young Juve, and DFB member Parlae.

Snoop Dogg Ego Trippin
(Universal/ Motown)

Ego Trippin is the ninth studio album by Long Beach, California based rapper Snoop Dogg that will be released in March 11, 2008. Snoop Dogg has announced that there will not be any guest appearances on the album. However, he did mention doing a song with Pharrell, Nelly and Charlie Wilson, titled "Feet Don't Fail Me Now", and that he would like to work with Madonna, Bono and Mick Jagger as well.

The first single "Sexual Eruption" (a.k.a. Sensual Seduction) featured Snoop Dogg using a talkbox with a keyboard. Snoop Dogg says he is not sure about the second single yet, but it might be a Neptunes-produced track titled "Sets Up".

Flo Rida Mail On Sunday
(Universal/ Motown)

Flo Rida's new album MAIL ON SUNDAY featuring the hit singles "Low" and "Elevator" in stores March 18th! The CD also features guest appearances from Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Brisco, Sean Kingston, Birdman, Yung Joc and Trey Songz.

This is the Miami MC's debut album. The first single was "Low" featuring t-Pain. The second is "Elevator" produced by and featuring Timbaland.

Keith Sweat Just Me
(Virgin)

The American r&b artist, Keith Sweat, will release "Just Me", his first after more than five years, on March 18, 2008. In the album, Sweat will sing a duet with Keyshia Cole and Athena Cage on "Love You Better" and on"Butterscotch" respectively. He will also showcases his falsetto vocal for the first time on "Somebody". Further, this album will be Sweat first album released under Atco Records and will feature "Suga Suga Suga" as the first single. Other tracks include "Just Wanna Sex You" and "Never Had a Lover".

BELIEVE THE HYPE?

Mariah Carey E=MC² *(Island Def Jam)*

Mariah finally releasing her album? The forthcoming 11th studio album, the follow-up to her critic-approved The Emancipation of Mimi, is due April 15 on Island Def Jam. The album's first single, "Touch My Body," she wrote and was produced with Tricky Stewart and The-Dream. The video for "Touch My Body" will be directed by longtime collaborator Brett Ratner. " I've been working on this record while I'm working on the fragrance," she said. "I wanted [the fragrance] to be sensual. ... It's really been like writing a song. ... This was almost the same creative process."

JANET JACKSON

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK...BUT, SHE IS BACK!

By Nathan Hale Williams

Janet Jackson doesn't want you to call her tenth studio album, Discipline, a comeback album and, for good reason. Her last album, 20 y.o., debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200, was certified platinum and earned her yet another Grammy nomination. But, after listening to Discipline, you can't help but say, "she's back!" For Janet, Discipline marks a return to form. She agrees. "I think that's what this album is," she said in our recent interview. "It's a classic Janet album, but has a modern twist to it." And she's dead on!

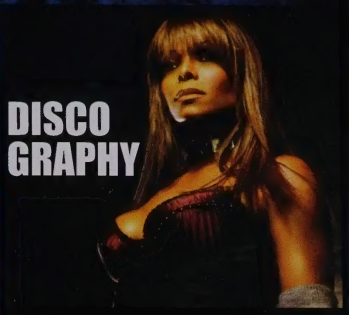
I spoke with the pop icon just as she was getting back from a lunch break during one of her dance rehearsals. To say the least, I was nervous. I was more nervous about talking to Janet than I was when I met her brother Michael last year. It's because she's Janet and I wanted to love her. She certainly did not disappoint me. Janet is everything you dream of: extremely nice, thoughtful about her work, down-to-earth and funny. And when she laughs, Janet makes you feel like you're talking to your good girlfriend from around the way. Like Michael, she quickly makes you forget you're talking to one of the biggest stars in the world. She's not sure "whether it was learned or in the genes," but she also shares her brother's discipline for work. And now, Janet Jackson is back with a new album titled to prove it.

The irony is that for the first time in her recording career, Janet didn't write any of the songs on the album. Instead, she has enlisted the help of recent hitmakers

From beginning to end, Discipline is pure Janet. Ms. Jackson if you're nasty. The irony is that for the first time in her recording career, Janet didn't write any of the songs on the album. Instead, she has enlisted the help of recent hitmakers, Ne-Yo, Rodney Jerkins and her longtime beau, Jermaine Dupri, to name a few. In fact, the entire project stems from a request by her new label (Island Def Jam) and label head, Antonio "L.A." Reid, to halt her touring plans for 20 y.o. and go back into the studio. "I was a full blown tour head," she says referring to when Reid approached her, "I just kinda had to stop and switch gears, which was a little difficult because I like to concentrate on one thing at a time."

It paid off. Discipline is one of the best albums she has released in years.

It kicks off with the Darkchild produced first single "Feedback," truly one of her best dance/club songs in at least three albums. When I first heard this track, I knew our community was going to love it. And, we do! To give you a brief moment to exhale from "Feedback's" hard-hitting bass line, Janet comes up with "Luv" next. Another Jerkins joint, "Luv" is reminiscent of the hit "Love Will Never Do Without You." It's a classic Janet mid-tempo groove with an unforgettable hook and superb production.



Janet is one of the top ten selling artists in the history of contemporary music; ranked by Billboard magazine as the ninth most successful act in rock and roll history, and the second most successful female artist in pop music history, selling over 100 million albums worldwide.

1982: Janet Jackson
1984: Dream Street
1986: Control
1989: Rhythm Nation
1993: Janet
1997: Velvet Rope
2001: All for You
2004: Damita Jo
2006: 20 Y.O.
2008: Discipline

Discipline then takes a "Bathroom Break" with two interludes and a somewhat forgettable Jerkins song, "Roller Coaster" that is saved by a cute chorus. Never fear, the next three tracks are some of the hottest on the album. Beginning with "Rock With U," which is destined to be a summer club hit. With simple lyrics and a drive it home beat, "Rock With U" is the first song penned by Shaffer Smith (aka Ne-Yo) and Janet's boyfriend, Jermaine Dupri who also produces the track. Janet says this track and the following one, "2nite" make her, "wanna kinda space out and feel like I'm in a house club." That's exactly the feeling you get from both songs.

Newcomer, StarGate's production on "2nite" is excellent as he takes all of the elements that make a great Janet song (stacked harmonies, breathy delivery, hard beat) and throws those elements into a bridge/breakdown section you will have on repeat. Ms. Jackson ends this trilogy of tracks with my favorite song on the album, "Can't Be Good," another Ne-Yo penned tune. It is pure Janet for '08 and, after just one listen, I still remember the chorus.

Other standout tracks include: "So Much Betta" (another favorite), "What's Ur Name," and "Never Letchu Go." When asked what her favorite is, Janet can't decide. "I don't have just one...I'm not just saying that either. They really are all my favorites." It's understandable because Discipline offers the most even set of tracks that the singer has delivered since All For You or janet. Janet sums it up best, "it's a fun album. I want people to dance. There's something that everybody can relate to...even if they haven't approached that moment in their lives, they will."

The folks at Island/Def Jam are excited about this album and are rightfully expecting big things from it. Janet is just as excited about them. She says, "I love what I am feeling from the new label...it feels like a family already for me." She is also expecting big things from the record. She hopes that "it will be a big album that will bring happiness to people's lives. And obviously, I will know that from the record sales if they like it or not." But, if people don't like it Janet wants "the truth whether you think it's going to hurt [her] or not." She is direct in saying that she doesn't like, "kiss ass people." Directness is one of the things that attracted her to Jermaine Dupri. She recalls a time "when [they] first started hanging," and Jermaine called her out on something by telling her "that's not cool...that wasn't a cool thing for you to do." Her reply, "thank you so much and please don't ever stop that."

You would think with all of the success she has enjoyed; success wouldn't be as sweet or important now, but she assured me that she doesn't "take it for granted." Even as one of the most successful recording artists of all time she insists that she still gets, "the same feeling," going to the studio and recording. Janet explained the difference between now and then, "I think the ride is sweeter when you get a little older...you're able to sit back and enjoy it."

We all know that the road hasn't always been sweet for Janet. She has had some well-publicized sour notes. But the focus is back on what it should be: her music and her talent. Janet Jackson is not just a musician; she's an all-around entertainer from the best stock there is, which is why we've embraced her for so many years. She says it is her fans that have helped her deal with difficult times. "They've been so supportive. And it hasn't been an easy road at times. [The support] has helped me to get through, along with my family."

Her dedication to her craft has also kept Janet going. "One thing that is really prominent in life is my discipline in work," she explains. "So, that's really what it's about." Ironically, the title track has nothing to do with her "being so focused at such a young age." Instead, it's a throwback to one of my favorite, naughty Janet songs, "Rope Burn." Here are some of the lyrics:

Oh I misbehaved
And my punishment should fit my crime
Tie me to something
Take off all my clothes
Daddy I want you to take your time (I'm scared).

With lyrics like these and strong production to back it up, it is clear that Discipline is a welcomed return to the Janet of old!

Even as one of the most successful recording artists of all time she insists that she still gets, "the same feeling," going to the studio and recording.

It is also clear that our community loves Janet Jackson. We have stood by her in the best of times and the worst of times. Janet is our girl! And, if you didn't know before: Janet loves you! I asked her what she had to say specifically to our community and this is what she gushed, "I love them. And, I think that's why they've been so supportive as well. I think they know that love and they see it. And, I thank them for that love and it will never be forgotten. They see that honest love."

Yes, we do Janet! We love you too! And although we know you didn't go anywhere really, we are so very glad to have you back!

Photos by: Chuando & Frey

Nathan Hale Williams is a Film/TV producer and the Arts & Entertainment editor for The Daily Voice.

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You control your life. Take an active role in your HIV treatment.

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TRUVADA is the #1 Prescribed HIV Med*

TRUVADA® does not cure HIV infection or lower your chance of passing HIV-1 to others. TRUVADA must be used as part of combination therapy. **TRUVADA should not be used with ATRIPLA® (efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate [DF] 300 mg), VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine), Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine), Epzicom™ (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), or Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine).**

USE OF TRUVADA:

TRUVADA is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents (such as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors or protease inhibitors) for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following side effects or conditions while taking TRUVADA:

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV and hepatitis B virus (HBV) and stop taking TRUVADA, your liver disease may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your healthcare provider
- If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines.

The most common side effects of the medicines in TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx® or Videx® EC (didanosine), Reyataz® (atazanavir sulfate), or Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir) with TRUVADA.

Please see Full Prescribing Information, including "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?" in the Patient Information section.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects to prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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*Based on data from PHAST retail monthly data, April 2006–February 2007, Wolters Kluwer Health.

GILEAD

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Patient Information

TRUVADA® (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider**. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- **Some people who have taken medicine like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.**
  - You feel very weak or tired.
  - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
  - You have trouble breathing.
  - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
  - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
  - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
  - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity,** with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**
  - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
  - Your urine turns dark.
  - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
  - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
  - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
  - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.
- **If you are also infected with the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV),** you need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

- Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.
- Do not take TRUVADA if you are already taking ATRIPLA™, Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), EMTRIVA, Epivir or Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), or VIREAD because these medicines contain the same or similar active ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **are breast-feeding.** You should not breast feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **have bone problems.**
- **have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of Videx in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and Videx together.** Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be reduced.
- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate) or Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and Reyataz or Kaletra together. TRUVADA may decrease the amount of Reyataz in your blood. If you are taking TRUVADA and Reyataz together, you should also be taking Norvir (ritonavir).

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not** take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
  - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
  - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**
  - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- ATRIPLA, Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), EMTRIVA, Epivir or Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity),** with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection,** in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store TRUVADA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose 2910, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

℞ **Only**

May 2007

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Truvada®
200 mg emtricitabine • tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg

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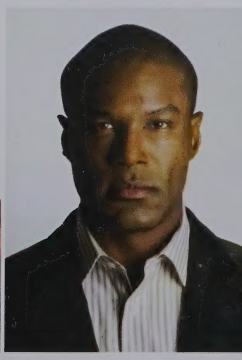
US.

A Visual Public Awareness Campaign

National Black Justice Coalition

Featuring images by Duane Cramer



The National Black Justice Coalition (www.nbjc.org) proudly presents a photographic journey spanning the diversity of Black Americans featuring Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals, along with our families and allies. The following pages feature just a few of the out, proud, straight-allied and vocal members of our community. We aim to break down walls of homophobia by sharing the vibrant, affirming, and supportive lives of Black LGBT. **The Power of Us** celebrates the unity, value and worth of the Black LGBT community.

Design: Emily Foran | **Make-up & Hair:** Mark Starr | *Duane Cramer photo by Philippe Gosselin*

On previous page: **Dr. Marjorie J. Hill,** CEO of Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) New York City; **Greg Wilson & Jeffrey C. King,** Greg is Youth Coordinator at My Life, a component of In The Meantime Men's Group, which was envisioned and founded by Jeffrey, who is the Executive Director; and **Duane Cramer,** photographer and social activist.

THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership is about providing a vision and purpose, and defining goals in a way that influences others to join you in achieving a collective vision—a shared and purposed community goal.

Powerful and principled leaders have strong beliefs and values, a clear sense of their own ethical standards, and understand the strengths and weaknesses of their own characters. Equally important is that successful leaders possess a great deal of knowledge and skills which allow them to keep their eyes and ears to the future, recognize when there is a need for change, and know how and when to implement and manage those changes.

It has almost become a cliché that leaders are "made, not born," but it seems to hold true over time. Some people are natural leaders; their personality traits enable them to take on leadership roles. Others take on leadership because of the circumstances calling for it. They respond to a crisis which calls for a leader to resolve it. Still, others are transformational, taking on leadership by choice and learning what it takes to lead.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a prime example of a leader. As we look back on history, his call to leadership seems to fit all three paths to leadership. Dr. King's role seems prophetic and a product of circumstances at the same time. A gifted and youthful orator, Dr. King held strong beliefs about justice and valued personal liberty and equality. His Christian beliefs clearly articulated the ethical standards to which he aspired and urged others to embrace. He was a man of great character and outstanding knowledge and skills. However, he was called by the times in which he lived to transform himself into not simply a leader of a congregation of believers, but of a nation – a world – in need. *(continued on following pages)*

H. Alexander Robinson
C.E.O. & Executive Director of the
National Black Justice Coalition

Toni Collins
Co-founder and
Chairman of the Board
of Directors for
Transgender Health
Empowerment inc.

Dr. C. Nicole Mason
Professor and Founder of the
National Women's Alliance

National Black Justice Coalition

THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP

Like all great leaders, Dr. King understood that the way to succeed in leadership—the way to survive—was to reshape to the needs of a rapidly changing world. All around him African-Americans were the subjects of often violent discrimination and racial oppression. There were many who saw the way forward as reciprocal violence. However, led by his wisdom and the advice of a close advisor, Bayard Rustin, Dr. King learned and pursed another path to justice.

Rustin, a Black same-gender-loving man who lived his life openly, had been introduced to the non-violent tactics that became the bulwark of Dr. King's movement for civil rights. He was a clarion voice to which King listened. Rustin too was a leader. Imagine what could have happened if these two icons of our nation's history had not charted a non-violent path to justice—such is the power of leadership.

Being a leader is not often easy, and many great leaders overcome tremendous odds and make extraordinary personal sacrifices to become champions for their causes. Barbara Jordan was such a leader.

Barbara Jordan was born in the Fifth Ward of Houston, Texas to a Black Baptist minister, Benjamin Jordan, and a domestic worker, Arlyne Jordan. She attended Roberson Elementary and Phyllis Wheatley High School. She attended Texas Southern University, and in 1956 she graduated magna cum laude with a double major in political science and history.

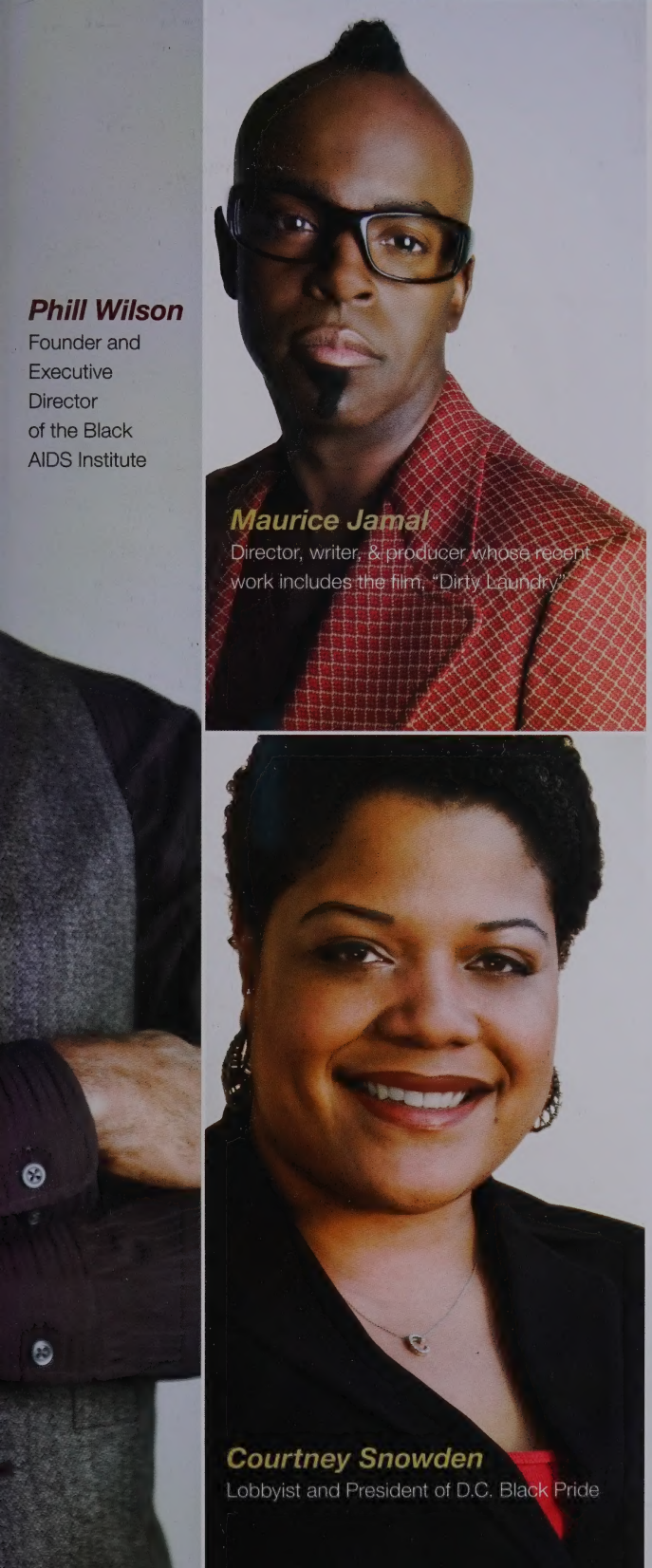
Jordan ran for a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and 1964, but lost both times. She made history when she was elected to the newly drawn Texas Senate seat in 1966, thereby becoming the first Black to serve in that body since 1883. In 1967 Jordan became the first Black elected official to preside over that body; she was also the first Black state senator to chair a major committee, Labor and Management Relations, and the first freshman senator ever named to the Texas Legislative Council. In 1972, Barbara Jordan was elected to the U.S. Congress from the Eighteenth Congressional District in Houston.

Both as a state senator and as a U.S. Congresswoman, Jordan championed the cause of poor, Black and disadvantaged people. One of her most important bills as senator was the Workman's Compensation Act, which increased the maximum benefits paid to injured workers. As a congresswoman, she sponsored legislation to broaden the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to cover Mexican-Americans in Texas and other southwestern states and to extend its authority to those states where minorities had been denied the right to vote or had had their rights restricted by unfair registration practices, such as literacy tests.

Jordan was a lesbian with a longtime companion of more than 20 years, Nancy Earl, though she never publicly acknowledged her sexual orientation Jordan's courageous leadership remains an inspiration to all Americans, especially Black LGBT Americans. Thus, we know both the power and the price of her leadership.

Of course leaders seldom lead alone and often have the companionship of family. In some cases they share the mantle of leadership. Certainly Coretta Scott King was an inspiration, as a helper to Dr. King and later a leader in her own right.

That is certainly true in the lives of Dr. Alvin Williams and Nigel Simon. Alvin is a native of South Carolina and a practicing dentist in Maryland. Nigel is an



Phill Wilson
Founder and Executive Director of the Black AIDS Institute

Maurice Jamal
Director, writer, & producer whose recent work includes the film, "Dirty Laundry."

Courtney Snowden
Lobbyist and President of D.C. Black Pride

environmental protection specialist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in DC.

Alvin and Nigel are raising their three adopted children in Prince George's County, Maryland. They are one of the nine couples who sued the state of Maryland for the right to marry. They met in 1977, and after three years of courtship affirmed their commitment to each other in a Holy Union commitment ceremony.

Throughout the course of their relationship, the two had often discussed the idea of raising a family. In 2001 they adopted three-year-old Kiran. Later they would adopt Renee and Mateo, a brother and sister; all three children were from a foster home.

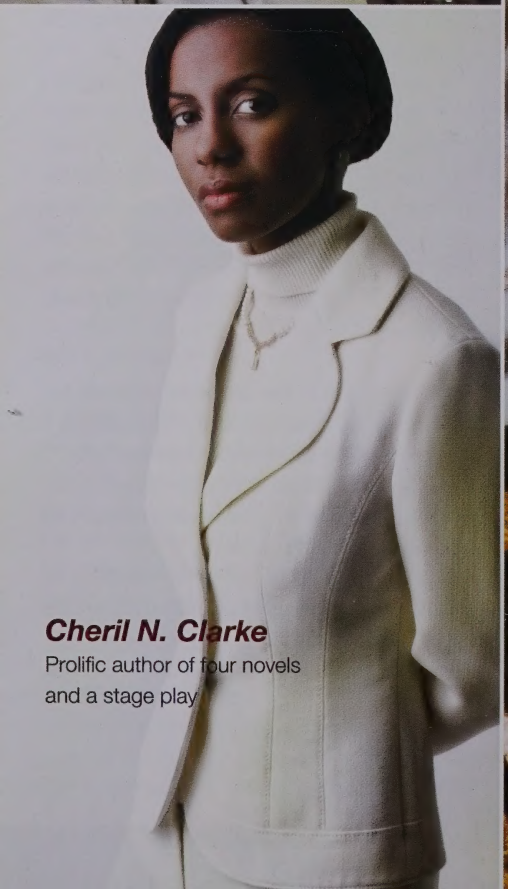
Alvin and Nigel are pillars of the black LGBT community in the greater Washington, DC area. Their commitment to their family, their church, the black community and LGBT civil rights is well-known and shows in everything they do. They lead by example, and they lead because they care. The power of their love is the power of leadership.

To be a leader is to be committing of one's self to empowering others. To lead is to understand that leadership is not solely or even primarily about being in charge, but rather about having, acquiring and exercising the capacity to motivate and move others to action.

If you are ready to lead, sit up and take the reins, but comfort yourself for it may be a bumpy ride. In the end its rewards are shared and plentiful.

-H. Alexander Robinson

Ray Cunningham
Actor and star of BET's reality television series, "College Hill"



Cheril N. Clarke
Prolific author of four novels and a stage play

Rev. Dyan McCray
Pastor of Unity Fellowship Church
in Washington, D.C.

THE POWER OF SPIRITUALITY

Someone once said that we are not human beings who have spiritual encounters, but spiritual beings having a human encounter. Spiritual, beings of the soul, sacred, eternal. The power of spirituality; tapping into the eternal resources of the divine. The power of spirituality is the power of love, of God, of the celestial and the sacred. There is no greater power.

Our eternal souls are expressing themselves within our mortal, human casing. We are God's thoughts in human form. Ever deepening spirituality involves our relationships to God, others and ourselves. Yet we LGBT people have had to endure experiences, attitudes and realities beneath the dignity of a sovereign people and children of God.

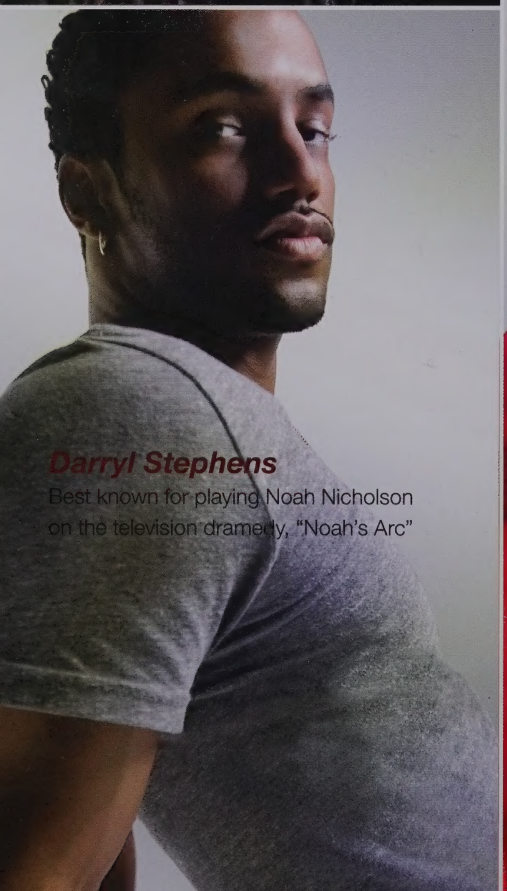
And yet, we have survived. We have survived without the benefit of powerful privileges. We have survived a culture constructed in direct animosity and opposition to the very possibility of our divinity. We have spent time, energy, money and intellectual capital addressing the moral questions of our day, by simply and profoundly trying to "snatch our humanity from the fires of human cruelty," as James Baldwin wrote.

It has been placed upon us to be involved in the moral and spiritual questions: Who are we as human beings? Why are we here? Where are we going? What is the purpose of our faith?

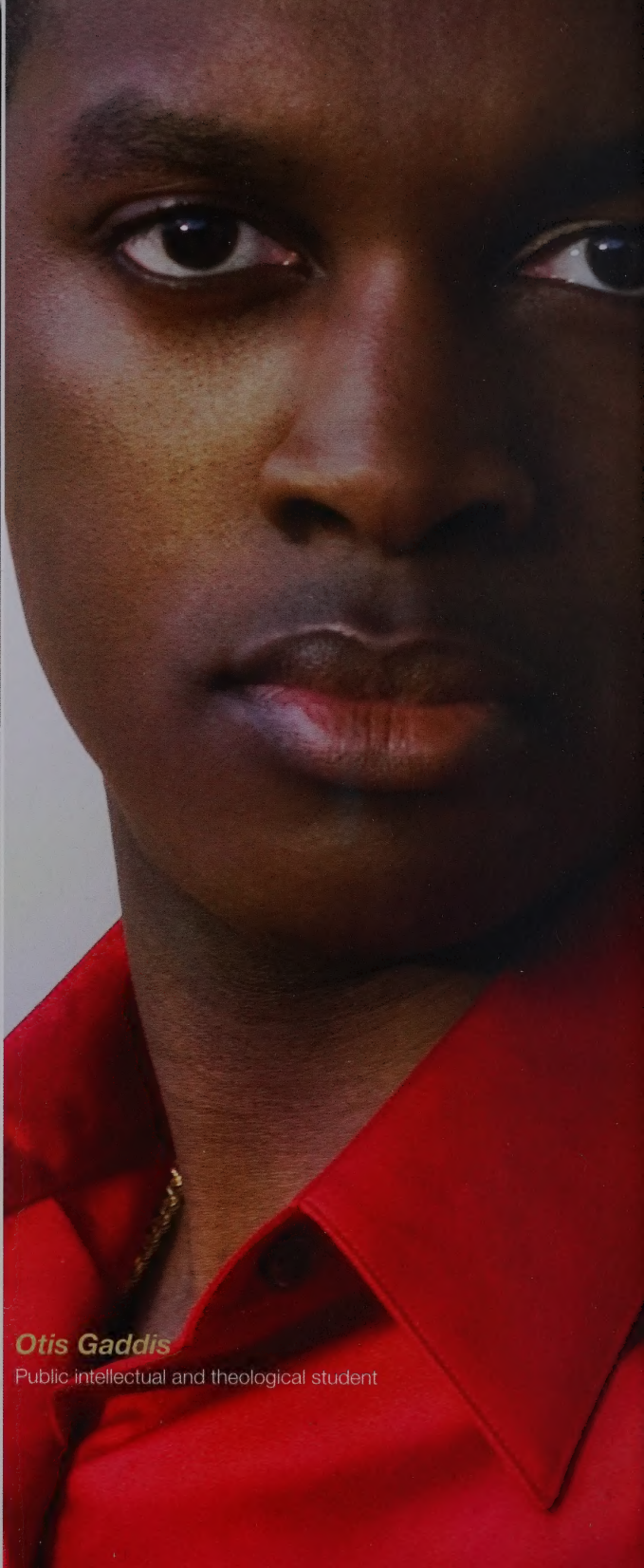
I submit to you that the purpose of our faith should be to bring justice to the world. And justice does not mean just us gays and lesbians. It does not mean just us African-Americans, or just us Europeans, or just us Latinos, or just us Native Americans, or just us Christians. If your faith is not about doing justice every time and place you can then I say that you need to expand the parameters of your spirituality.

You need to see or be aware of the connections of the oppressions. You are challenged to connect the dots between racism, sexism and homophobia—lies to the spirit, soul-killing brews of animosity and hostility.
(continued on following pages)

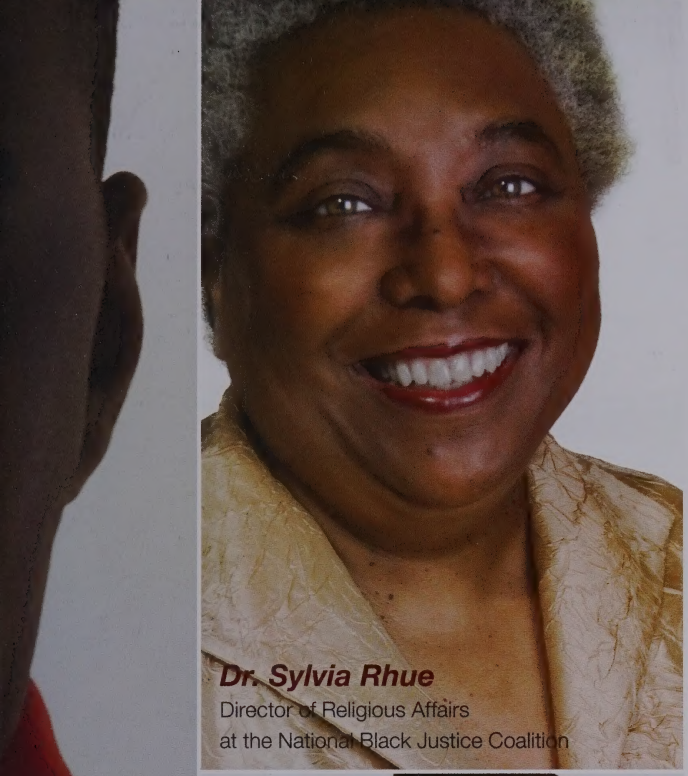
Alicia Banks
Columnist, producer and host of both talk and music radio shows



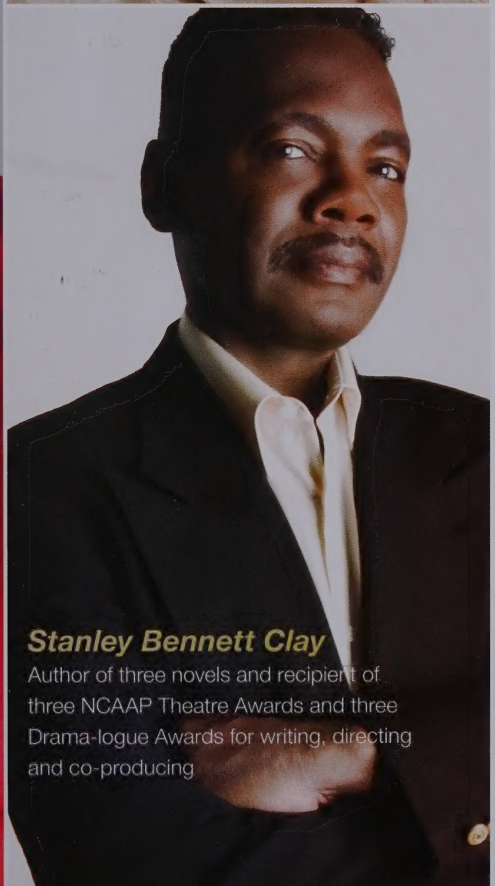
Darryl Stephens
Best known for playing Noah Nicholson on the television dramedy, "Noah's Arc"



Otis Gaddis
Public intellectual and theological student



Dr. Sylvia Rhue
Director of Religious Affairs
at the National Black Justice Coalition



Stanley Bennett Clay
Author of three novels and recipient of three NCAAP Theatre Awards and three Drama-logue Awards for writing, directing and co-producing

THE POWER OF SPIRITUALITY

Spiritually enlightened people have figured out that discrimination, not homosexuality, is immoral and love between consenting adults is a glorious thing no matter the orientation. The profound spiritual leader Bishop Yvette Flunder said: *"God is not using us in spite of who we are, God is using us because of who we are."* Our gayness is a spiritual gift that has brought blessings to the world through our collective talents, our enduring spirit, and our place in the universe as those who raise consciousness and have much to teach the world about love.

How do we characterize our historical moment? That is up to us as we address the moral and spiritual questions of the day. Marianne Williamson's thoughts on spirituality brought to the world's attention by Nelson Mandela in his inaugural speech:

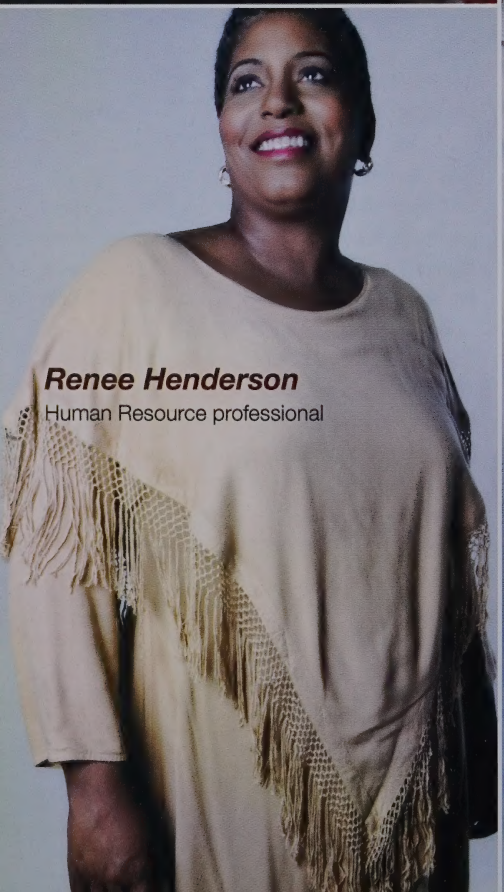
"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our dark that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

We are "powerful beyond measure" because we are spiritual beings.

-Dr. Sylvia Rhue

Beverly Rhue & son Tom Rhue

At 85, Beverly is a proud mother of her gay son and lesbian daughter; Tom is Associate Senior Vice President at the University of Southern California



Renee Henderson

Human Resource professional

Quincy LeNear & Deondray Gossett

Co-creators/ producers/ directors of the internationally acclaimed television series, "The DL Chronicles"

THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

A relationship is a connection between two (or more, in some cases) people who share an emotional and/or physical involvement with each other. The foundation of a relationship typically requires communication and time, and in romantic relationships also includes intimacy. But in powerful relationships the ingredients required are savvy individuals who function as one unit who are able to understand, trust, forgive and commit to one another.

From the start, same-gender relationships are fighting an up-hill battle when compared to those in the heterosexual community. It's very similar to the generational Black family saying about our white counterparts that "everything they do [whites], Blacks have to do and work twice as hard" in order to get the same degree and amount of recognition.

As gay men and women, we have to put forth double the amount of work and effort in comparison to our relationship than our straight brothers and sisters do. The foundations of straight and gay relationships are similar in their need for communication, time and intimacy.

But gay people take on additional baggage in trying to determine who is head of the household and/or who wears the pants. A gay man, for example, isn't only concerned about whether or not the person he is dating is someone he would take home to meet his mother, but rather, if that person is someone with whom he wants to be seen in public.

Straight people are less likely to worry about how straight they are, whereas gay people typically question just how masculine, feminine, flamboyant, or "straight-acting" they are.

Further, our society has placed numerous constraints upon gay relationships by restricting marriage between two people of the same gender. While a few states allow same-gender marriages and/or civil unions, the majority of states have openly barred the recognition of same-gender marriage.

THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

This causes trouble in same-gender relationships when seeking the financial benefits associated with taxes, home-ownership, insurance and other tangible items. And let's not forget death. Even with proper planning and careful drafting of legal documents same-gender couples are only able to accomplish some of these things. The institution of marriage affords over 1,000 federal benefits that civil unions and legal documents cannot. But Love conquers all and successful relationships are do-able if both parties are ready.

The first step requires that you be at peace with yourself. To be at peace with yourself, you must know where your limits and comfort zones exist. Do you know your strengths and challenges or what you can or cannot tolerate and how those things relate to your morals?

Once you have figured out who you are, you have to be ready to love you, because who you think you are is important and the key to making yourself complete. Basically, you can't expect someone to love you when you don't love yourself; nor should you expect someone else to make you feel whole either. Instead you should look for someone who compliments your completeness.

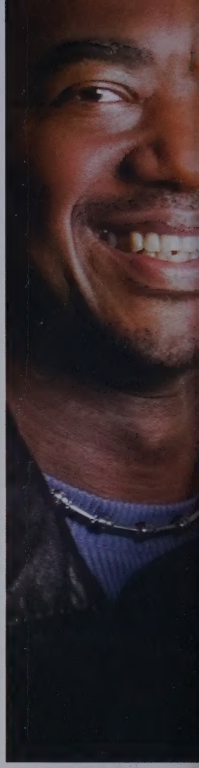
Next, we must learn how to communicate, because love is a contract, and everyone needs to be aware of what it is they are agreeing to. Communication requires being able to understand what you want from the relationship and being able to convey your goals and ambitions to your partner. It is okay to disagree, but always try to understand what your partner is saying.

The first few conversations are typically the most truthful because people generally feel like they have nothing to lose, so pay attention. Also keep in mind that communication involves both verbal and non-verbal skills, therefore you don't need someone who says one thing, and does another. If you hear or see something you cannot tolerate don't go into the relationship thinking you can change it. Most importantly, don't fool yourself into believing that you will be able to tolerate it either, because all the things you accept against your better knowledge will be the things you regret in the end.

Next, we must trust, which is not easy to build and can make or break a relationship. It can take weeks, months or years to establish trust in a relationship, but only one incident to destroy it. Trust is one of the first steps of risk for the people involved because you are letting down your walls and exposing yourself. Most people start to trust their partner more by observing how their partner is likely to behave in certain situations and making sure their actions are consistent.

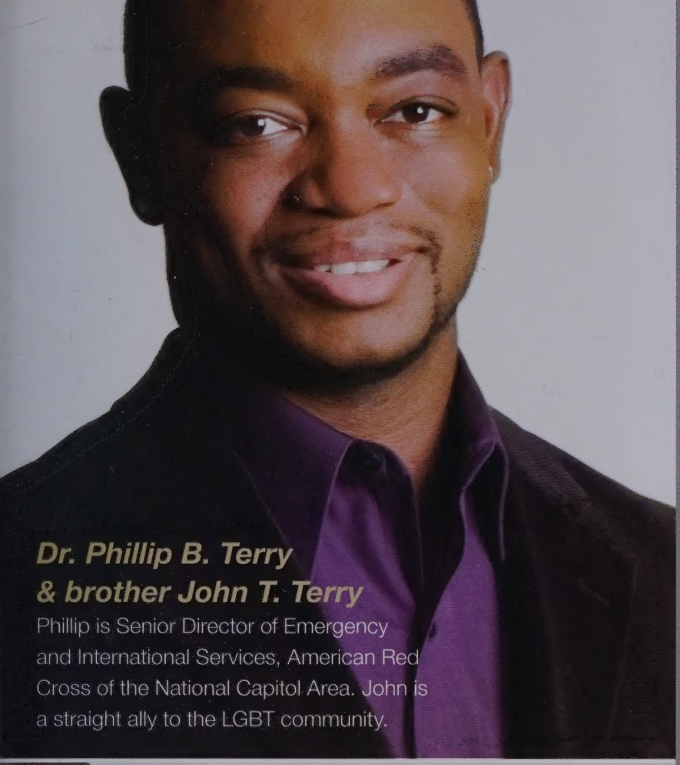
Partners generally reward one another when right, and punish them when wrong. Therefore, it is important not to conceal things and to be open with your partner so s/he will feel comfortable with you. Any major changes in how you perceive the relationship must be communicated to your partner know first. The deep hurt often comes when s/he hears it from someone else or discovers it on their own.

After that comes Forgiveness, because no relationship is perfect and forgiveness restores trust. The hard part about forgiveness is that it snaps you right back to step one, like a "go straight to jail" card in Monopoly, and you can't collect that $200 for all the other stuff you went through. Don't seek revenge or retribution, because it will only prolong the pain.



Patrik Ian Po

Screenwriter, singe
actor & creator of t
Black gay series,
"Noah's Arc" as
well as the film,
"Punks"



Dr. Phillip B. Terry & brother John T. Terry

Phillip is Senior Director of Emergency and International Services, American Red Cross of the National Capitol Area. John is a straight ally to the LGBT community.

Gloria Bigelow

Out & proud comedienne

That is why the first step is exactly that, because you have already decided what you could and could not tolerate. Remember, you don't deserve to be abused, constantly betrayed and lied to, because you ought to have better. However, if you decide to forgive your partner you can't throw the mistake in his/her face later or use it as ammunition in another argument.

Arguments are arguments, and they don't necessarily lead to break ups or fights. Sometimes when we argue we say things we do not mean that need to be forgiven. No relationship can last a long period of time without forgiveness.

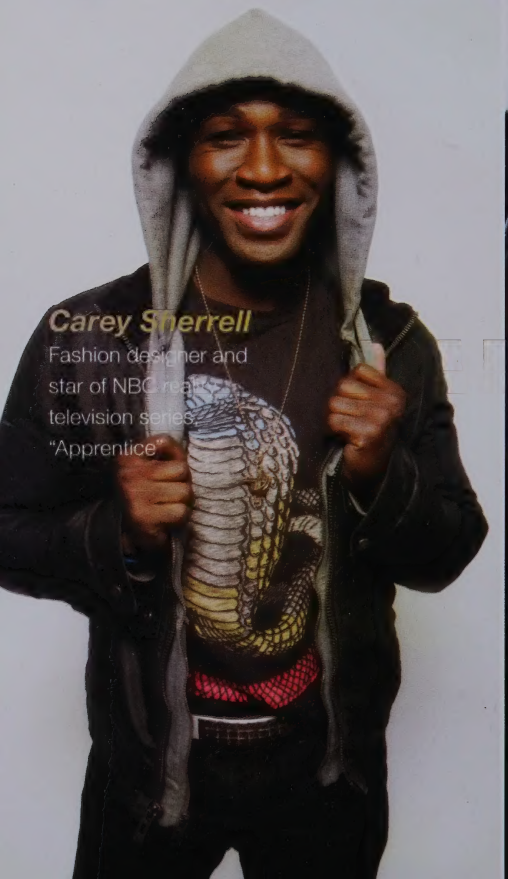
If you have been able to accomplish all of these other steps, you've now reached the Commitment step. This stage is the best because you have already determined that love takes work and that your partner is the one you want on your team. You know there is no perfect partner, but there is a perfect partner for you.

I believe my friend Cory, a DC resident who has been with his partner for seven years and with whom he shares a child, said it best when he told me, "A BETTER YOU IS A BETTER ME." He went on to say that single people are often powerful and successful in their professional lives, but that they usually don't know how to transfer that success into a relationship. Relationships are full-time jobs on top of the career you are working to establish.

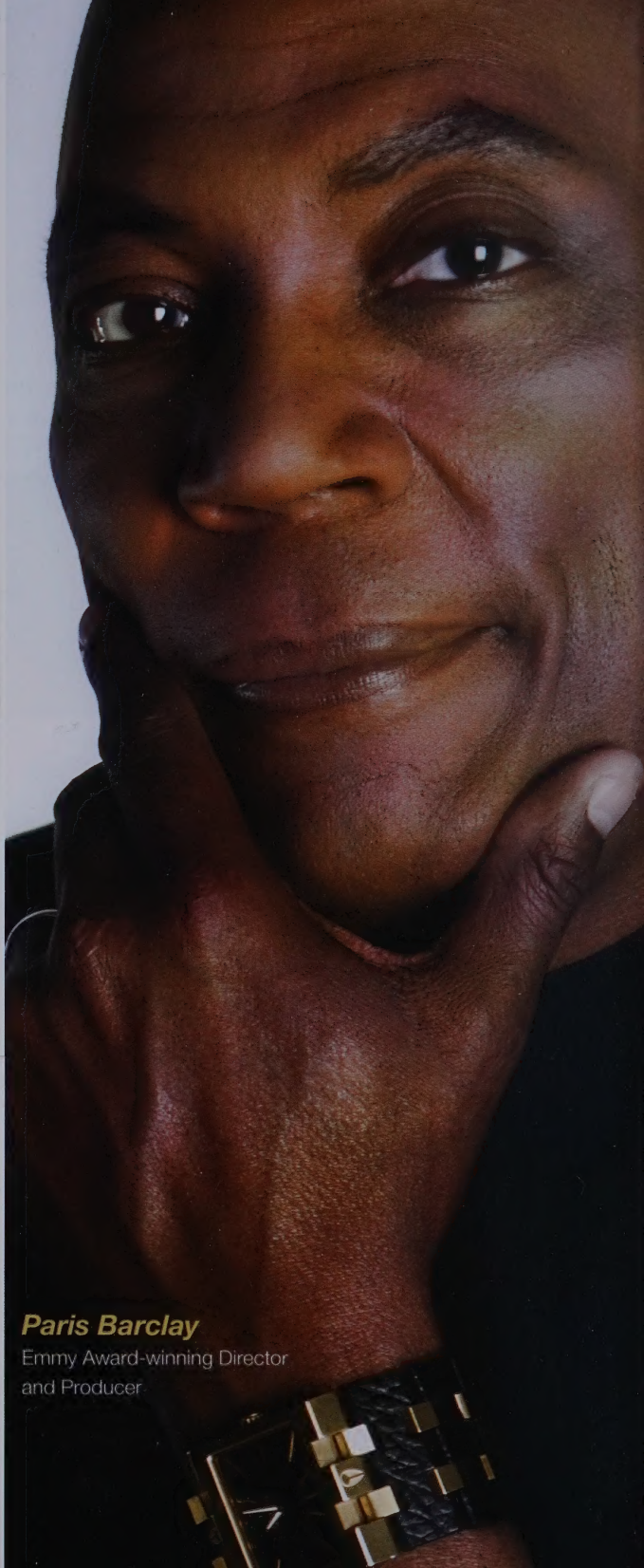
At the end of the day, your relationship is your relationship and no one else's. Follow your heart, and don't let society determine or influence your happiness because you have the power to make your relationship successful.

-Robert D. Snowden

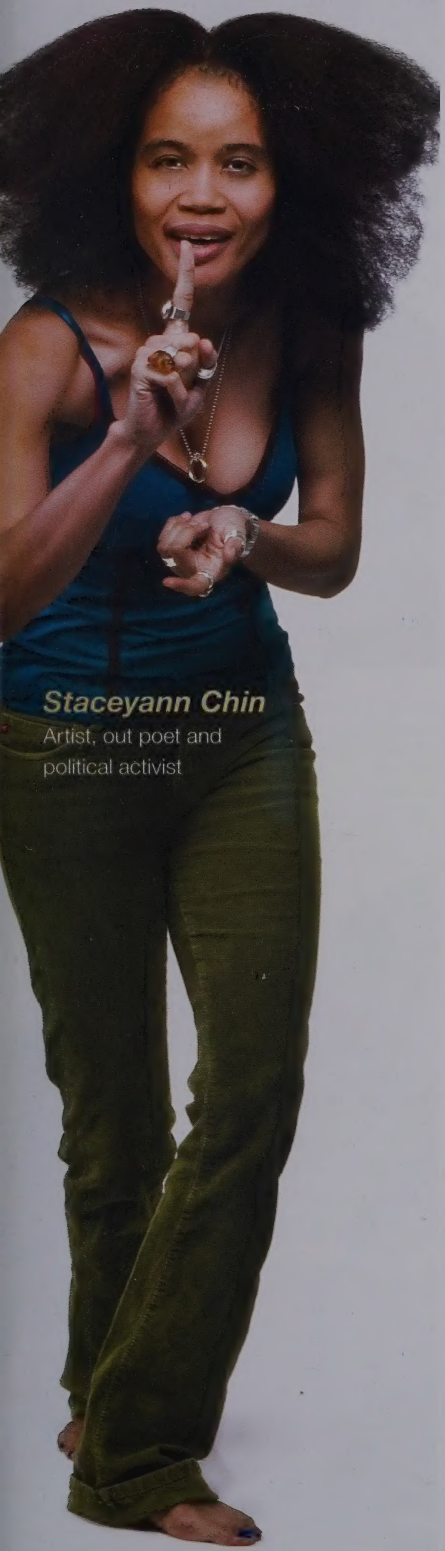
Kathy Harris
Actress, model, host, poet and star of BET reality television series, "College Hill"



Carey Sherrell
Fashion designer and star of NBC reality television series, "Apprentice"



Paris Barclay
Emmy Award-winning Director and Producer



Staceyann Chin
Artist, out poet and
political activist

THE POWER OF MEDIA

Whether it happens consciously or unconsciously, society takes many of its cues, mores, cultural identities, and personal beliefs from the messages and images generated by and through the media. What was once considered taboo yester-year is currently considered "in" today. What was once considered to be risqué a generation ago is now considered to be completely blasé today.

The cultural evolution from who we once were in the past to who we are today is due in large part to the power and the persuasiveness of the media. That is why it is absolutely imperative that the Black LGBT community take control of its own identity, its own message, its own image, and its own media presentation.

As long as Pastor, Big Mama and Uncle Joe are not aware of the vibrant, productive, spiritually dynamic and creatively brilliant contributions and lives of our community along with knowledge of the massive numbers that we exist, it only perpetuates the stereotypes of what it is to be LGBT. To them we still are caricatures and a collage of stereotypes long held over from the past.

But today through the power of the internet, television, radio and through books and magazines, a 15 year old boy in rural Mississippi spiraling deep in depression can be uplifted by reading about others just like him who have soared in all areas of their lives.

Today a closeted 43 year old mother of four living in the South side of Chicago can see, read, and hear the stories of other women just like herself and take comfort in knowing that not only is she not alone, but that there are resources and support systems that will assist her in coming out to her authentic self.

Today to be Black and openly LGBT can no longer be seen as an anomaly but instead as a reality. Today our images, our lives, and our spiritual

THE POWER OF MEDIA

paths are gushing into the vibrant tapestry of American culture as well as the culture of the world through the power of the media.

Just 5 years ago there were no Black LGBT television series. Today we can boast "The DL Chronicles" and "Noah's Arc." Just 5 years ago, there was only one nationwide Black Gay Magazine. Today we boast 4 and counting!

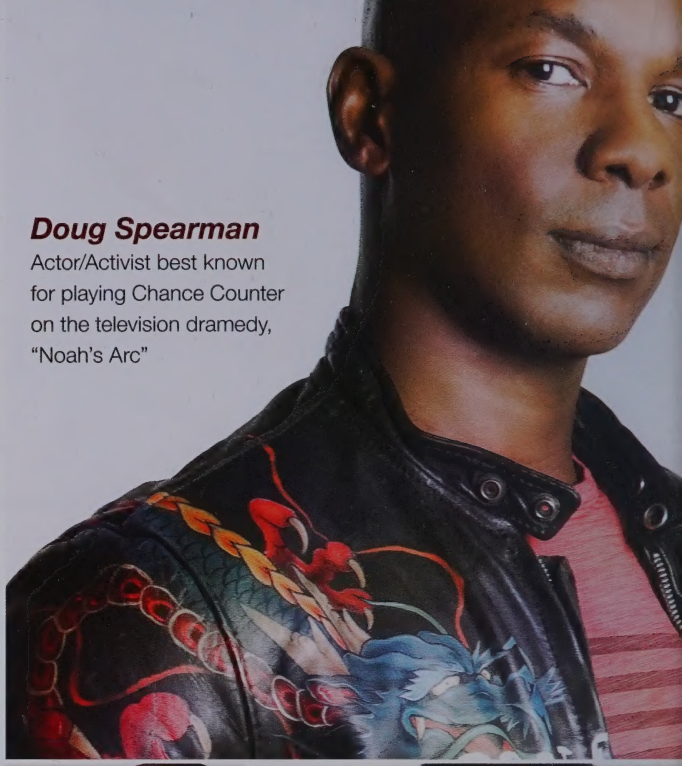
Just 5 years ago there was no nationwide, viably active, fully funded and fully staffed Black LGBT civil rights organization advocating in the political arena, through the media and through an extensive faith outreach on behalf of Black LGBT men, women and youth. Today we have the National Black Justice Coalition which does all of this and more.

NBJC understands, recognizes and embraces the power of the media. We reach people where they are through the media. Through the power of the internet, we have pioneered our way via our websites, blogs, webcasts, and podcasts in displaying, highlighting, and celebrating the lives of Black LGBT.

We have also produced a nationwide print magazine, NYANSAPO so that there is printed proof of our vibrant and unashamed existence. We also target and pitch news stories to mainstream media outlets that specifically include stories about our lives as Black LGBT.

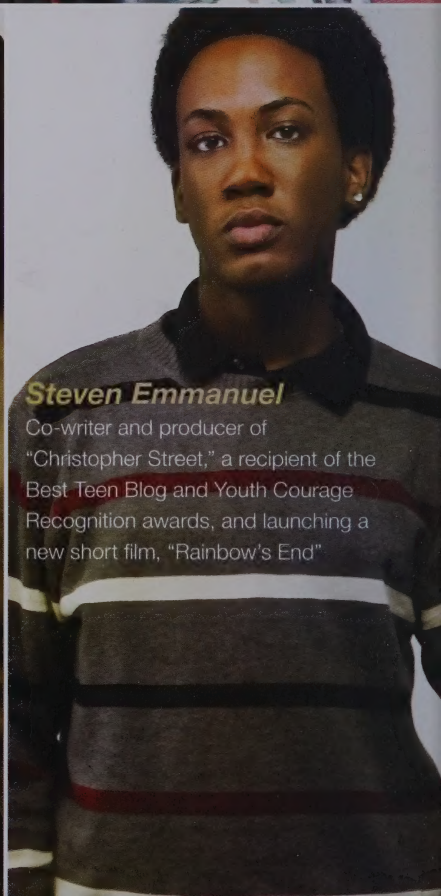
Hence NBJC has become part of the solution of increasing the visibility of our community and in taking complete control and ownership in telling our own stories, framing our own messages, creating our own identities, and developing our own media portrayals.

-Herndon L. Davis



Doug Spearman
Actor/Activist best known for playing Chance Counter on the television dramedy, "Noah's Arc"

Rashad Robinson
Senior Director of Media Programs for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)



Steven Emmanuel
Co-writer and producer of "Christopher Street," a recipient of the Best Teen Blog and Youth Courage Recognition awards, and launching a new short film, "Rainbow's End"

AND I'M TELLING YOU

By Juwan Watson

Allow me to tell you why I received a "please rescue me," phone call from my friend at 3 o'clock in the morning. Yes, my sleep was interrupted because a grown ass man won't read the damn writing on the wall. In hopes to desperately keep a man, my friend Tyrique is tightly holding on to the most inflexible, disrespectful and combative brotha' he could find. That's the truth and here is the 411.

Like many, Tyrique grew up believing that money was the answer to all of his problems. He saw his mother beg, bargain and broken heartedly left behind by too many men without ever happily living for herself. So, way before Tyrique met Donald, he decided that he would be the bread winner in his relationships. Tyrique figured that his relationship would run smoothly if he always provided Donald with haircut money, a new wardrobe, a hot meal, a big house and of course a nicer car. But Donald never wanted a second father, a live-in-lover, a mortgage or a co-signer for a new car. Before meeting Tyrique at the local super market, Donald already knew he was just looking for a sounding board, a fuck buddy and a friend for fun shopping trips. Donald even said, "I'm not looking for anything serious," but Tyrique thought he could convince him to change over time. Tyrique just ignored the contentment Donald had for his raggedy cavalier, empty ass apartment and random booty-calls. Over the last 2 1/2 years, Tyrique continued begging for an exclusive commitment, and kept complaining for Donald's comfortable yet complacent lifestyle to change. Inevitably, Tyrique's sacrificial role of living to please Donald became the most expensive venture he ever entertained.

Note: All sacrificial roles consist of putting yourself last, being someone's sexual object, punching bag or human ATM machine. And sacrificing your happiness is only annihilating your self-esteem and thus spiritual suicide.

While chasing his perfect picture fantasy for the last 2 ½ years, Tyrique became bitter, lost countless hours of sleep, quality time with his family and his ability to achieve his original goals before he met Donald. And although Tyrique's bank account remained sufficient, his self-esteem and confidence extremely suffered while he tried to trick Donald into the monogamous relationship. Without any mutual friends or shared debts, Tyrique continued to chase after Donald even though he indisputably knew they were incompatible lovers with different values & goals. But because Tyrique sacrificed his own happiness for a relationship, he was actually an ineligible bachelor before this dramatized lust affair with Donald ever began 2 ½ years ago.

> ...many of us have friends who agreed to entertain toxic roles that detain them from achieving their goals...

Just like Tyrique, many of us have friends who agreed to entertain toxic roles that detain them from achieving their goals and, deny them of nourishing relationships. And we know a few guys like Donald, with warning signs on their foreheads that declare their propensity in becoming disrespectful, inconsistent, and very ineligible partners. And sadly, men like Donald recognize compromising men like Tyrique, the roles others choose to play and just utilize them at their benefit. But Men like Donald aren't wrong for manipulating guys like Tyrique, because Tyrique is competent adult. Tyrique can't even pretend to be victimized because he knew exactly what he was getting into the moment he agreed to endure it. It was the moment, Donald declared he wasn't looking for anything serious and Tyrique decided to try and change Donald's decision. And I'm telling you, nobody can change anyone.

So, as independent, competent and mature men, we can choose to remind our friends that they can only change their own perception and their own procedure of dating. We can tell the Tyriques of our lives that they have to honestly choose the role that reflects their desires. We can tell the Tyriques of our lives that they can choose partners that can reciprocate the relationship that they deserve, need and require. We can choose to tell the Tyrique's of our lives that he can have a harmonies connection of love and respect the moment he declares his relational position. And I'm telling you to do your homework:

HOMEWORK

1. On your refrigerator, post a list of 10 Qualities you love about yourself & 3 qualities you adore in a partner.
2. Discard old relationship mementos and put the pictures of your Ex-lover in a photo album
3. Vacate to a new scene and embrace fresh faces at Sizzle Miami, churches, cruises & clubs.

SYNTH ROCKS

LEAVE THE ROUGH-HEWN ORGANICS TO THE ECO FREAKS. FOR A CERTAIN BREED OF DESIGNER, THE SYNTHETIC HOLDS SWAY. AFTER ALL, TECHNOLOGY MAY BE OUR UNDOING—BUT IT MIGHT ALSO BE OUR SAVIOR. (AND IF NOT, ATLEAST IT MAKES THINGS MORE COLORFUL.)

Photos by: Chris Astley

Burberry Prorsum double-breasted coat, $2,150, available at Burberry NYC, burberry.com; **Calvin Klein T-shirt**, $29.50 for pack of three, available at Macy's, macys.com; **Alessandro Dell'Acqua**, $410, available at Alessandro Dell'Acqua, NYC, alessandrodellacqua.com; **Alejandro Ingelmo sneakers**, $465, available at alejandroingelmo.com

Y-3 vest, $620, and **Bisento sneakers**, $90, available at George Greene, Chicago, adidas.com/y-3; **3.1 Phillip Lim cardigan**, $325, available at 3.1 Phillip Lim New York, 31philliplim.com; **Subscript grid T-shirt**, $58, available at subscript.com; **Dsquared cotton pants**, $375, available at Riccardi, Boston, dsquared2.com

Osklen jacket, $479, available at Osklen, NYC; **Marc by Marc Jacobs shirt**, available at Marc Jacobs, NYC; **Missoni orange cotton pants**, $480, available at Missoni, NYC, missoni.com; **Y-3 Tenji low sneakers**, $390, available at Y-3, NYC, adidas.com/y-3; **Cutler and Gross sunglasses**, approximately $350, available at Artsee Eyewear, NYC,

Helmut Lang raincoat windbreaker in winter sky, $530, available at Helmut Lang NYC, helmutlang.com; **DKNY dust linen wide-stripe crewneck sweater**, $145, available at DKNY, NY, dkny.com; **Marc by Marc Jacobs neon-yellow stovepipe-leg pant**, $290, available Marc by Marc Jacobs, marcjacobs.com; **Gola sneakers by Jonathan Saunders**, $220, available at Bloomingdale's stores, bloomingdales.com

A. Adidas Candy watch, $65; B.From top: Raf Simons by Linda Farrow, $325, Marni, red/clear sunglasses, $369, Bernard Willhelm by Linda Farrow, $150 C. Victorinox Schoeller metallic jacket, $575; D. Patrik Ervell rubber-hooded parka, $840; Brian Wood zip-front nylon-blend windbreaker, $405; Nike Tech Pack Windrunner jacket, $275

Gadget Upgrade

FORGET PLACE-SHIFTING, CONVERGENCE, OR A WORLD WITHOUT WIRES. THE NEWS COMING OUT OF THIS YEAR'S CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW IS AS MUCH ABOUT STYLE AS SUBSTANCE. TRANSLATION: FINALLY SOME GADGETS THAT LOOK COOL TOO!

BOWERS & WILKINS LIBERTY

www.bowers-wilkins.com

The Anglo audiophiles at B&W have unveiled one of those things that should have existed years ago—a wireless system capable of transmitting full 5.1 surround sound. As you'd expect, sound quality is pristine, thanks to their B&W's signature Nautilus tube tweeters and Kevlar drivers. The price is still TBD, but expect to pay a pretty penny. Still, think of all the money you'll save on speaker cables—at least that's what we'd tell the boyfriend

EMOTIV EPOC HEADSET

emotiv.com

Electroencephalography—trips off the tongue, doesn't it?—has been used to "read" the approximately 100 billion nerve cells in your brain for a century. But only now is someone using it for something really important: playing video games. The just-announced gizmo can even read facial expressions to see if, say, you laugh while killing an A.I. enemy; a response that will then be mimicked by your on-screen character. Just remember to resume quasi-normal behavior when you take the thing off; $300

MOTOROLA Z10

www.motorola.com

Anyone who's ever used a video camera may find Motorola's claim that this cell phone is "turning moviemaking into a social activity" a tad excessive, but it's an impressive gizmo nonetheless, with built-in video editing software that allows you to overlay text, create a theme song, and upload to YouTube. What's more, budding filmmakers can even use it to call their agent (or mom) once their masterwork is online

PIONEER AVIC-F500BT

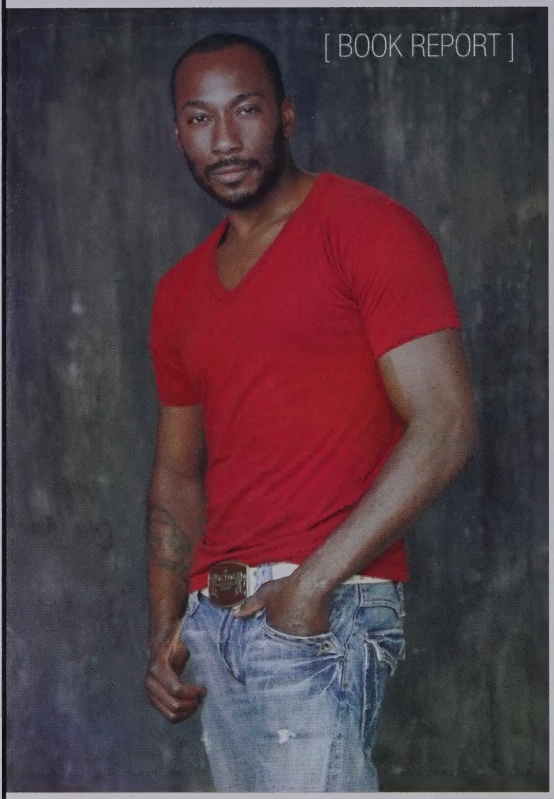
www.pioneerelectronics.com

We've all talked back to a GPS unit. Here's one that actually listens. Pioneer's sleek new in-dash navigator, which connects to your existing audio system, uses voice recognition to manage your MP3 player, mobile phone, and Bluetooth devices. To hear a song or a group, just say the name of the artist or title. Bear in mind though, if you're a road-raging type, you may end up listening to a lot of gangsta rap (not to mention U2).

SONY ERICSSON C702A

www.sonyericsson.com

Sure, it's got a 3.2-megapixel camera with 2x digital zoom, red-eye reduction, geotagging of photos, and even video calling. But more to the point, Sony Ericsson's new c702a is also sand- and waterproof. Whether the pics you take with it are, well, Hockney-esque is another matter entirely.



Carlton Wilborn

Standing Front & Center

By Darian Aaron

There's an old saying, "What doesn't kill you can only make you stronger."

As cliché as it may sound, one conversation with Carlton Wilborn or even a few pages into his recently self published book, "Front and Center: How I Learned To Live There, you're given a lesson on how choosing life, embracing your authentic self and clearing the clutter in order to walk in purpose can not only make you stronger, but in Carlton's case -a warrior.

Standing over 6 feet with a beautifully chiseled face, skin the color of a melted chocolate bar, and a body that was built for movement, Carlton Wilborn's face and artistry became recognizable in the late nineties as a backup dancer for such well known artists as George Clinton, Whitney Houston, Paula Abdul, and Janet Jackson. While an audition in the fall of 1989 for superstar Madonna as a backup dancer on her Blond Ambition Tour would catapult his career to new heights, off stage Carlton was grappling with years of sexual abuse, low self-esteem and eventually a crisis that would test his faith and mortality.

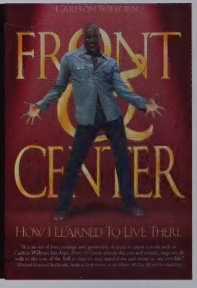
Born in Chicago, Illinois to a working class family in the mid 60's. Carlton's childhood memories are often vivid and painful images of his mother being physically abused at the hands of his father who suffered from alcohol dependency. This was especially difficult for Carlton as he shared a rich and powerful bond with his mother, often being referred to as a "mama's boy."

But it was the sexual molestation by "Gary", a male friend of the family that began at eight years old and continued into his early teens that would affect his psychological well being and ultimately every relationship he would attempt to form in his adult life.

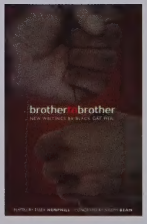
...Continues on next page

Carlton was forced to mature quickly as he lived this secret double life, often wanting to expose the criminal and life altering acts of his perpetrator but lacking the emotional support needed to do so.

His memoir can be purchased at TreeLifePublishing.com, Amazon.com, and Barnes & Noble.com. Visit Myspace.com/CarltonWilborn or CarltonWilborn.com for more information.



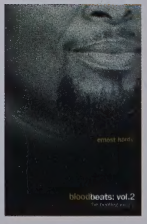
Straight off the Press: New GLBT Releases from RedBone Press



Brother to Brother

RedBone Press

Believing that the "gay community . . . operates from a one-eyed, one gender, one colorstet without hyphens. sg perception of community ," Beam and Hemphill have compiled a volume of writings that address the emerging black gay sensibility in all of its glory, pain and promise. The strength of the book's politics, however, is undermined by offerings of dubious literary merit. Generally, the short fiction is only adequately written, depicting young closeted men afraid to come out to their abusive parents and peers. The poems in the collection speak routinely about sex and love; the most touching deal with the loss of loved ones to AIDS.



Blood Beats Vol.2

Ernest Hardy

Writing from a critical center that is melanin-based/feminist/pro-queer/unabashedly leftist, Ernest Hardy pens essays, interviews and reviews whose subject matter ranges from underground hip-hop and American indie film to modern French cinema; from revealing interviews with Carl Hancock Rux, Sarah Schulman, Meshell NdegeOcello, visual artist Mark Bradford, legendary French filmmaker Agnes Varda and Ledisi to essays on the Fugees, Kanye West, Eminem and gay hip-hop porn.

"I knew what we were doing was wrong. He always wanted me to penetrate him. I was a young kid, but I was aware of my sexuality even then. A part of me enjoyed the sensation. I felt like this was special, something that no one else in my family had. But I knew this was something that I should never speak about", says Carlton.

As a result Carlton was forced to mature quickly as he lived this secret double life, often wanting to expose the criminal and life altering acts of his perpetrator but lacking the emotional support needed to do so.

As his self-esteem began to plummet, a turning point occurred. Out of the ashes of secrecy and shame a junior high school teacher introduced him to a savior that would become an outlet to release his pain and offer a way of escape, if only temporarily. And it wasn't our Lord and Savior, although He would play a significant role later in his life. Carlton's savior was dance.
On the dance floor he was a force to be reckoned with and it wouldn't be long until his masculine prowess landed him in Chicago's Hubbard Street Dance Company. A widely known contemporary dance company that Carlton vowed he would join after watching a young female protégé' become the youngest

...while taking a ballet class he decided that HIV was in no way going to take him out.

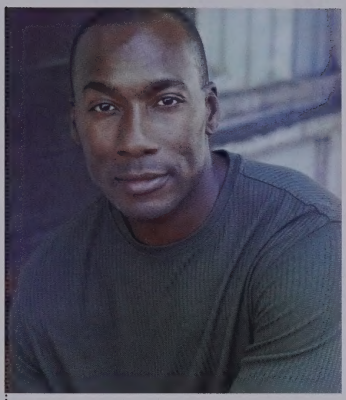
dancer ever to dance in the company. Three years later he would make good on his promise.

But it was in February 1985 while on tour with Hubbard Street in Hawaii that a simple phone call would send his world into a tailspin.
"Hi, is this Carlton?" I say, "Yes". "Are you sitting down?" Now, I'm not stupid. I know that kind of intro is no set-up for good news. Then he says, "The test we did came back and you're HIV positive". I'll need to see you when you get back home. There are some drugs that I think "might" help."

In 1985 an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence and with no reassurance from his doctor that living with HIV was possible Carlton fell into a deep depression and began a cycle of self-destructive behavior.

Until one freezing cold day in Chicago while taking a ballet class he decided that HIV was in no way going to take him out. At that moment Carlton decided that he was going to choose life despite the ever-looming presence of death.

Choosing life meant starting over in Los Angeles, the city where he could bring his



dreams into fruition and leave behind his painful past in Chicago. But his diagnosis would continue to haunt him and remain a secret that he would transport to Los Angeles.

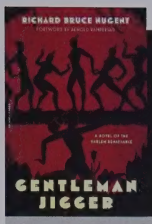
Every dancer has a defining moment in their career when they feel they have "arrived". This defining moment for Carlton came after an audition for Madonna's 1990 Blond Ambition Tour. Out of 600 male dancers who answered the call only twelve remained standing at the end of the day and Carlton was one of them. By the time he arrived home to his small studio apartment there was a voicemail from Madonna herself inviting him to a club the same evening and subsequently to a dance class where afterwards she personally offered him the job.

He would continue to dance for Madonna for years, appearing in the cult favorite Madonna: Truth or Dare documentary and a second tour, The Girlie Show, eventually becoming her pillar of strength onstage and off. It was through Madonna that Carlton was introduced to the spiritual teachings of Kabbalah.

Yet with all of his success and early attempts at spiritual enlightenment Carlton still struggled to shake his past and the poor decisions he made as an adult that often kept his soul in bondage and his life's purpose at bay.

Until he decided during his "well period"(a period when we realize we've either fallen into, dug ourselves into or been put into a dark well) that he'd hit rock bottom and needed to re-claim the strength of his lineage. In doing so he ushered in healing and God's blessings front and center.

Today after having the opportunity to confront his childhood molester and resolving the issues in his past, Carlton continues to develop as a whole human being who insists on living authentically as an example to others and is a highly sought after actor and choreographer with an impressive resume that spans two decades.



PREVIEW

By Alice Randall

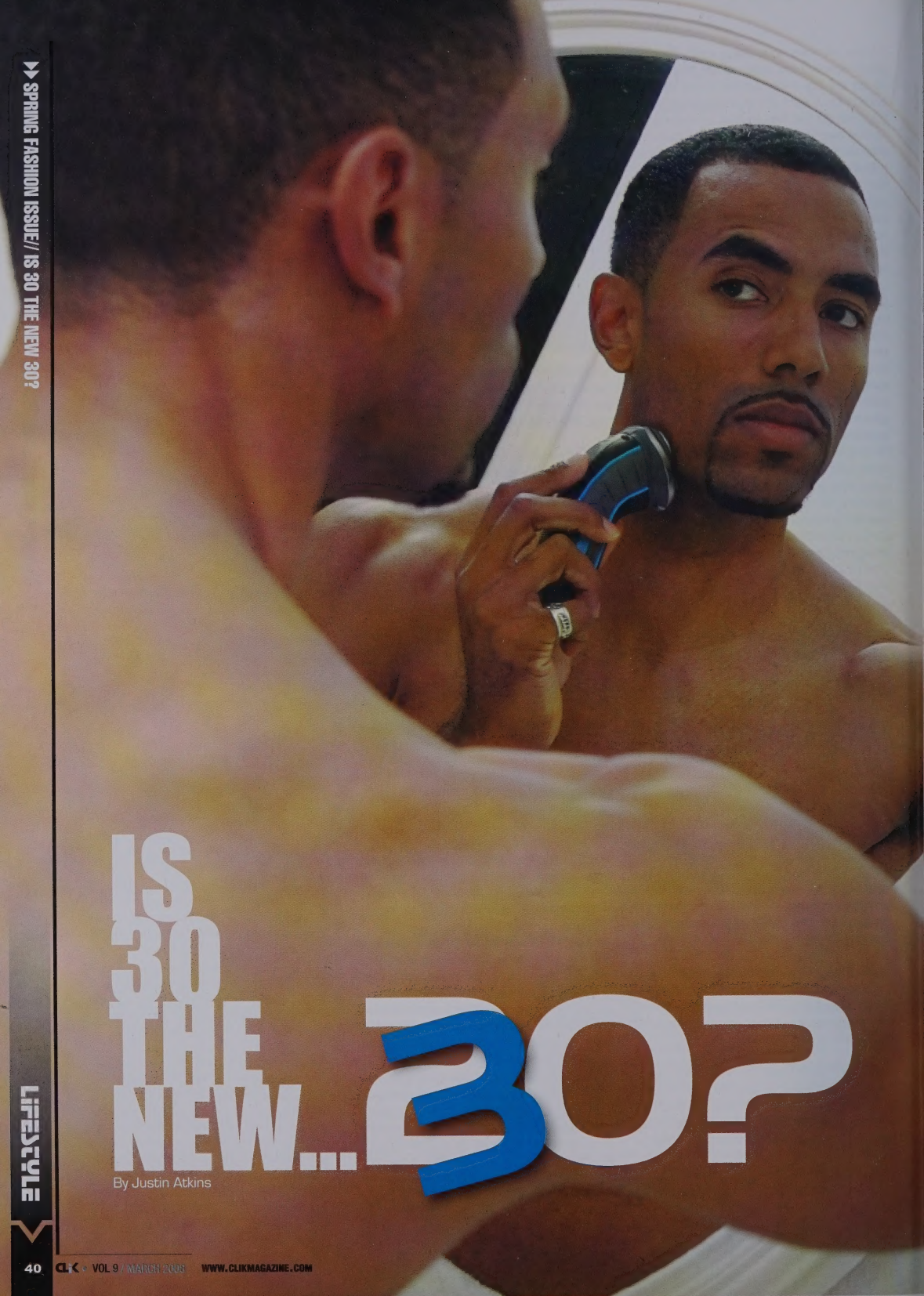
A belatedly published roman à clef about the Jazz Age and the Harlem Renaissance

Richard Bruce Nuggent's novel "Gentleman Jigger" is a strange cocktail of glamour and dirt that goes down easy, quickly intoxicates and leaves a pungent taste. It may just give you a hangover. But anyone who has ever lamented that he or she was born too late to spend an evening at Georgia Douglas Johnson's legendary Washington, D.C., salon frequented by black writers, artists and politicians, or to spend any hour at 267 W. 136th St. "when Harlem was in vogue," should rush to risk the head pounding.

Cracking "Gentleman Jigger," however, is a bit like opening a door to a party full of very interesting, sometimes dangerous, sometimes dazzling people who all know one another – but don't know, and perhaps don't want to know, you. The experience is also akin to sitting beside a bold-living, wild-loving, deliciously indiscreet man of fine lineage willing to regale you with juicy gossip from the world of art and letters and tender but explicit favored incidents in his sexual history, all the while reeling off the names of dozens of books you might want to poke into and why, and pausing to provide a primer of social etiquette among certain elements of black bohemia before tutoring you on how to capture the un-capturable man.

The book begins in D.C., parsing the genealogy of the protagonist, Stuartt, who enjoys a socially privileged and economically precarious existence – very much like Nugent's own. Young Stuartt recites Paul Laurence Dunbar's "Little Brown Baby" on demand but prefers to gorge himself on Nick Carter and Rabelais. The pale but black boy has a particular fondness for "Gargantua" and "The Decameron" and a peculiar loathing of dark-skinned people. "He could not bear the thought of having to face Miss Hussey every day . . . . For Miss Hussey was black, and Stuartt was prejudiced in the extreme. . . . He had never been allowed to play with dark children."

When it is discovered that instead of selling newspapers – to help fill the family coffers – Stuartt is robbing his piggybank, the school-age boy "took his thrashing, said he was ashamed, promised to really sell his papers in the future, and retired to dry his tears and meditate upon his sin in solitude like a little man. He took the volume of Boccaccio to the toilet with him." Stuartt is an odd and interesting boy who becomes a bold and more interesting man.



IS 30 THE NEW... 30?

By Justin Atkins

Eventually there will be a new crop of hotties trying to take a dip in my dating pool, and they will have the same smell of fresh milk and naiveté that makes us young boys so desirable to the older crowd

Recently, a friend of mine turned the big "3-0", much to my surprise (I had forgotten his birthday). After being verbally reamed for forgetting his special day, we sat back in amazement. If taxes, rent, and previous year's talks of reinstating The Draft weren't big enough indicators of his adulthood, the birthdate on his driver's license sure was. But hearing "Ken" (as he will hereby be referred to as) tell me about how shocked he is to no longer be a carefree boy in his teens or 20s got me to thinking about what life will be like for me when I reach the same milestone, and moreover, how will I be? That's right, I turned his birthday into something about me...and?

Mind you, 30 is nowhere near Golden Girl age, so you can cancel your fitting for orthopedic shower shoes. But according to "Ken", 30 doesn't quite have the same youthful ring as 20. Even though he's incredibly intelligent, unreasonably successful, and has an ass you could bounce an entire roll of quarters off of, "Ken" speaks of his youth as if they were days of yore. It's as if he's started psychologically preparing himself for the inevitable day he struts into a room, and no one gives a second look at his once juicy glutes. He even jokingly reminds me that my days as a young tenderoni are numbered, and he's right. Eventually there will be a new crop of hotties trying to take a dip in my dating pool, and they will have the same smell of fresh milk and naiveté that makes us young boys so desirable to the older crowd. As confident as I may or may not be, the thought of being outdone by some little rascal does perturb me. I can see "Ken" already beginning to give in to the same presumptions and fears of being discarded like deadwood by Black gay culture, and society in general. As vibrant and alluring as "Ken" is, it's disturbing that he thinks that some chocolate twink could hold a candle to his seasoned charm.

But that's the power of youth in our society. We've been conditioned (partially by our own selves) to fear wrinkles, aging, and most notably death, and to welcome flawless skin and lean bodies. If you think you haven't been, go check your medicine cabinet and see how many age defying face creams, hair straightening gels, and teeth whitening strips you can find. It's alright, I'll wait...

We have also been conditioned to associate the word "gay" with young, pretty boys that are promiscuous and prone to HIV infection, both of which are stereotypes based on prejudice and fear. Think about it. How many times have one of us "youngin's" seen a 40 year old in the club and judged him? How many times have we dismissed the attention or advice of someone just because they are a few decades our senior, and presumed to have no clear understanding of today's world? We place youth, beauty, and physical fitness on the highest of pedestals so that we can look down upon those with the audacity to let their hair turn grey. We forget that these same grey-haired gentlemen were us 20 years ago, or that in a couple decades time we will be member's of the Fabulous and Forty Club. The only positive thing we have attributed to growing older is that with experience comes wisdom. But, if you could shake your wisdom at that hot brotha in the club, then Morgan Freeman would be the City Gym Boys Man of the Year (He's not by the way).

However, as my newly minted "grown" friend reminded me, with age comes wisdom, and that's more precious than all the washboard abs in the world, even my own. He also advised me of all the heartfelt advice that people in their 40s and 50s had bestowed upon him the night of his birthday "get-together." "Enjoy this time." "You should have a financial plan set in place for yourself for your future." "What about retirement?" "If you're 30, you should know who you are and what you stand for." "Kids, kids, KIDS!"

As someone on the shorter side of 30, I'm nowhere near being self-actualized enough to honestly say that I've "found myself" and know all there is to know about me, and I don't appreciate someone else putting a time clock on when I should have my act together either. That being said, some of the advice "Ken" received was actually on point. It's always a good idea to think about your financial future, and with Social Security funds dwindling faster than the number of people who still watch "Girlfriends" (Monday's on the CW, in case you forgot) it's never to early to start. But at the same time, I don't know if I'll have it all figured out by the time I'm 30. I don't know if I ever will. But that doesn't mean that I plan on losing my desire to try, and that's something I hope does not fade with age.

I also have to say that there are some definite perks to getting older. You learn more about yourself and gain insight into the world that you could not have, had you not experienced it for yourself. Also, all the things that you used to dream about doing as a kid you're now free and able to do. Plus, the older you get, the less accountable you are for the smart comments that fly out of your mouth. Think about it. When was the last time you checked your grandma for cussing you out, using bad grammar, or mispronouncing a name? To her, "Jackie" Hudson sung the hell out of "And I am Telling You," and who are you to disagree? With age the freedom to say whatever the hell you want grows exponentially with each passing year.

I don't know what the world will be like when I hit 30, and I don't know how I'll be either. But, however I turn out, I hope that I'll be something I can be proud of. Because one day, this beautiful chocolate skin is going to wither, and this small waist just might expand past any size Guess currently carries. Aging is unavoidable, but I don't think my friend "Ken", nor I, would trade it in for all the Black Plague (Botox) injections in the world. Because no matter how many rings are around the tree trunk, Black is beautiful and fabulous at any age. Just ask Jackie Hudson.

SEX DRIVE DIMINISHES WITH AGE

By Billy Jeffries

A low male sex drive or "libido" can be cause embarrassment, frustration and anxiety even becoming the cause of failed relationships. Perhaps you suffer from a diminished sex drive due to age, health conditions or other reasons. In some cases, males are unable to identify any plausible cause of low sex drive. On the other hand many men simply enjoy sex and yearn to maximize the satisfaction of their partner and themselves.

THINGS YOU'LL NEED:
* Consistent sleep
* A healthy diet and exercise

[1] STEP 1:

Studies have proven that consistent sleep in excess of 6 hours per night enhances your physical strength, promotes good moods and as a result should improve your sex drive. In extreme cases symptoms of depression and anxiety can lead to both insomnia and a diminished sex drive. Many antidepressants and sleep aids can sometimes cause erectile dysfunction and/or a loss of libido. Reduce caffeine intake, strive to fall asleep naturally and sleep soundly for at least 6 hours each night. * Some Chinese Herbs

[2] STEP 2:

Eat a healthy diet and maintain a solid exercise routine. Obesity is a risk factor for erectile dysfunction and low testosterone. By eating well and exercising you can in increase testosterone product (something that naturally diminishes as men age starting in their late 30's), and thus an increase in sexual drive and male libido. Saturated fat can lead to clogging of the arteries which in turn can impede blood flow to the genital region. This not only interferes with your ability to perform, but also with sexual pleasure. If you feel good and self confident your may feel more sexual and attractive to your partner.

CLiK
MAGAZINE
X
1998
2008
10TH ANNIVERSARY

A DECADE IN REVIEW

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

THE EARLIER YEARS

It was an unusually hot day in Houston when Clikque [now CLIK] Magazine appeared on the scene late in May of 1998. Ironically the hot weather would later reveal the sizzle the magazine would represent as it quickly rose a top of the reading lists for African-American GLBT/SGL people. On this, our tenth anniversary we are proud to present the "mile stones" of Clikque as seen through the covers, people, and events that have brought Clikque to being the nation's #1 monthly publication for same gender loving people of African descent in the world. From day one, our prominence and dominance has been based on offering fresh approaches as we highlighted the lives of African-American members of the GLBT/SGL community with style, class, and sophistication!

In The Beginning

May 1998 – May 2000

WHAT A DRAG!

Necole Luv Dupree became the first female illusionist to grace the cover o Clikque in March of 1999. From humble beginnings, Necole went on to win most of the Nation's most coveted titles including Miss National, Miss Black Universe and the title that alluded here for many years Miss Continental in 2007.

FIRST LADIES OF CLIK[QUE]

The first and hottest ever female cover of Clikque featured stunning Kimla from Houston Texas.

MAY 1998

A Star is born in Clikque Magazine as your complete news, information, and entertainment guide for African-American GLBT/SGL people and the community that serves them. Clikque served as the Official Guide to Houston Splash '98 with Rande Rochelle featured as a legend in the making.

JUNE 1998

Clikque living up to its motto "for him and for her" features its first female cover model, Kimla Mouton. Not only built for beauty but also an entrepreneur with her partner Shirley as co-owners of Club Extreme in Houston.

JULY 1998

Clikque continues it's representation of the community by featuring the face of all faces Legendary Whitney Mugler from the House of Mugler. TRAXX becomes Atlanta's first major club to embrace Clikque magazine as a major advertiser and supporter.

AUGUST/SEPT. 1998

Clikque explodes on the scene of the nation's black gay prides serving as the official magazine for Atlanta's Black Gay Pride Celebration. The body and bulge, of George King is featured on the cover. It is still recognized today as one of Clikque's most demanded cover.

Believing Clikque could better serve the entire community, Clikque Magazine moves it's home base to Atlanta, the "Black Gay Mecca".

OCTOBER 1998

Niesha Dupree- Legendary Mother of Atlanta is featured in Clikque along with the internationally renown Champions Models Calendar owner Lance, standing guard on the cover.

NOVEMBER 1998

The Supreme Legend Pepper LaBeija, mother of the House of LaBeija is featured on the cover and offers insight into his life and the Ball world.

DECEMBER 1998

Clikque features two new faces of the month. The very enticing Terrence MaGee and Monté St. James, the newly crowned Mr. Black Universe.

JANUARY 1999

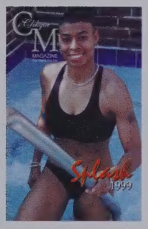
Clikque features Stewart Ebony legendary mother of the House of Ebony.

FEBRUARY 1999

Clikque serves as the official magazine for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum's convention held in Atlanta. Clikque cameras captured many of the nation's most prominent leaders. Gays and allies converged on the city of diversity to continue celebrating the strides of our leaders.

MARCH 1999

The graceful, lovely, and inspirational Necole Luv Dupree join the cover model alumni as the first female impersonator to appear on the cover of Clikque. Necole in her own dramatic flare shocks the nation with her stark presentation and style...Fierce.



APRIL 1999

Fresh with a new look Clikque continues to grow as the nations most widely sought after monthly publication for the Black Gay community. For the first time Clikque produces an 80 page spread.

Clikque features the stud model, FLEX, on the cover

Clikque was on hand to capture "The Stars of the Century" as the world witnessed the birth of the nation's hottest entertainment show hosted by the hilarious Sophia McIntosh and the effervescent Dominique Rashad.

MAY 1999

Clikque Magazine Owner and Publisher of Clikque Magazine is featured on the cover of the First Anniversary Issue and celebrates its' 1st year anniversary at Traxx which features recording legend Miki Howard as special guest performer.

The Anniversary issue unveils a 3 page fold-out cover that had not been seen before

Clikque makes waves at Houston Splash '99 producing its' first anniversary pool party.

Clikque's largest event was deemed a huge success.

JUNE 1999

The man and muscle of Maceo heat up the cover while the bodacious body of Allegra heats up the inside along with the men of Champion Connection featuring some of the sexiest men and women to walk the runway in a fashion showcase.

JULY 1999

Clikque hosts its first prelim for Mr & Ms. Clikque America. Tijuanna Brooks becomes the first Ms. Clikque Houston.

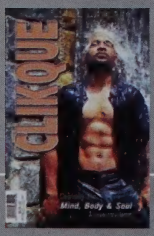
CLIK Honors 2006

CLIK HONORS HISTORY

Beginning November 2006, Clik Magazine, America's #1 gay publication for and about men of color, celebrates individuals with a special awards reception. The event took place Saturday November 25th 2006 at the fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta, GA. It was the first of its kind for the Black gay community and was deemed a huge success. The Organization celebrates and recognizes individuals, businesses, and organizations who through their everyday lives, talents, causes, and campaigns, have paved the way for the enhancement of BGLBT communities locally and nationwide. Under one roof, The Clik Honors was able to bring together actors, authors, activists, politicians, film directors and produces, musicians, promoters and other professionals all in one place, all at the same time celebrating Black gay achievements

Proof to the rest of the world that gays are significant contributors to all of society and their accomplishments deserve recognition.

Clik's Editor-In-Chief and publisher, Dwight Powell was featured on the magazines' cover four time. He was featured on the covers of each of the first three anniversary issues and later in December of 2006



AUGUST 1999

This issue was Clikque's most lucrative as a result of the many advertisements from sponsors and promoters viewing for that elusive Labor Day Weekend crowd in Atlanta. A special fold-out ad was created for TRAXX- Atlanta. The was mesmerizing and a huge hit.

SEPTEMBER 1999

Clikque presents it's most equally balanced issue featuring male and female interests throughout the pages of the most sought after publication in America.

OCTOBER 1999

Tampa Jamz was announced by Clikque. Slated for June 2000 L.William Cosby was selected as the first Tampa Jamz event model. This event has since been converted to Sizzle in Miami.

Clikque joins in the march for a cure as it becomes a big promoter of AIDS Walk Atlanta. Clikque organized a team of walkers and promoted the event throughout the pages of the magazine.

Clikque also produced the most comprehensive AIDS report ever produced by an African American publication to that date. Refusing to continue ignoring the impact of HIV/AIDS on the total African American community, Clikque offers a unique perspective and report of the devastation of HIV/AIDS on women, children/youth, men, and families. Clikque's viewpoint included looking at the statistics within both the gay and heterosexual communities.

NOVEMBER 1999

Clikque moves into its first office space in the heart of Mid-town Atlanta. The magazine, up to that point was operating out pf the home of the owner and publisher, Dwight Powell.

Clikque produced it's largest issue to date, featuring Nestor Zapata, Clikque's Business/Office Manager and Cover coordinator. This issue boasted 96 pages of information, news, and entertainment "for him & for her."

Clikque, along with the nation, said goodbye to the world renowned Loretta's Nightclub and welcomed it's successor "The Sequel" to the scene; continuing to offer Atlanta's nightlife variety and spice.

DECEMBER 1999

Moving from just a magazine that encourages support of organizations Clikque raised donations for the first time to support local AIDS service organizations.

Legendary Father of the House of Mizrahi, André Mizrahi featured on the cover.

JANUARY 2000

Clikque produced the first Mr. & Ms. Clikque America Pageant. Two star-studded nights of competition, where the Nation's best female impersonators and male entertainers grace the stage either as contestants or as entertainers. Preliminary night was held at the World Famous Traxx nightclub and finals were held at Georgia State University's Rialto Theatre. Terryl-Lynn Foxx and Tim Bolhar were crowned as the first title holders with Sasha Valentino and Damien Kelly as first runners up.

Chiron becomes the first pharmaceutical company to embrace Clikque Magazine with an advertising contract, through the help of Don Sneed, executive director of Renaissance III in Dallas.

FEBRUARY 2000

Clikque sells its' first cover featuring the stars of the movie "Trois". Clikque exposes the gay community to mainstream African-America while also offering our opinion of the first feature African-American film in 2000 to delve in into the arena of sexual diversity.

MARCH 2000

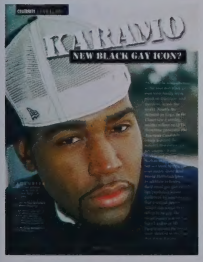
Clikque makes what may now become an annual face lift as it promotes its current reigning King and Queen Mr. and Ms. Clikque America 2000 on the cover.

Clikque presents its launch party in New Orleans spearheaded by our reigning Queen Ms. Terryl-Lynn Foxx.

APRIL 2000

Clikque hosts it's anniversary parties in Atlanta at Fusion and Traxx. Clikque Hosts the "Marvines" art exhibit at the Martini Bar in Midtown Atlanta during its anniversary weekend.

December 2005



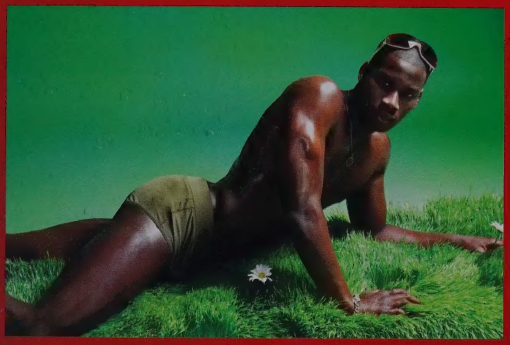
November 2005

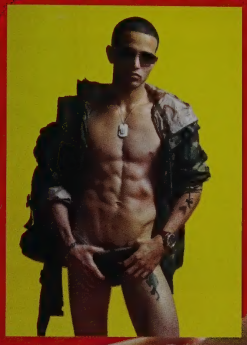
January 2006

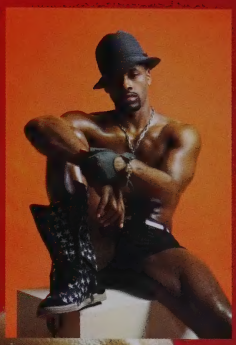
Slippery

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOWARD HUANG
Fashion Director: Curtis Davis

On Gold:
Shorts by **DIESEL**
Sunglasses by **VALENTINO**
Necklace by **JUST METAL**
Belt by **KEISELSTEIN-CORD**
Watch by **ERNEST BENZ**
Sneakers by **MARK JACOBS**



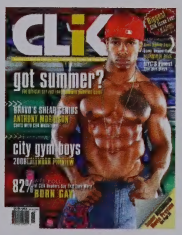


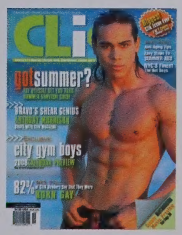


When Wet

Summer Fashion 2006

TOP SUMMER COVERS



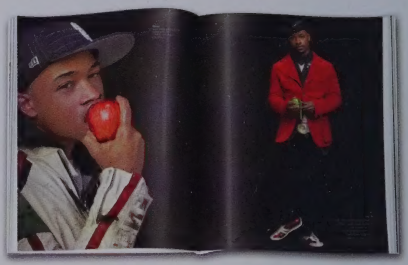


Sizzling hot covers that left the boys salivating for more. Some of our hottest covers featured the beautiful men of color, the City Gym Boys (founded by Charles LaSalle).

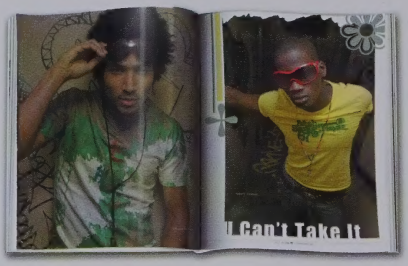
February 2006

Fall 2005

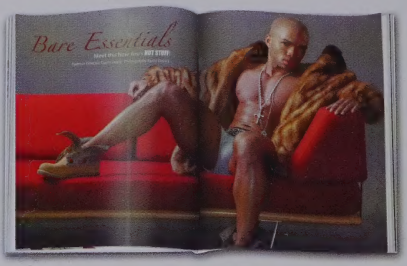
December 2005



March/ April 2006



January 2006



May 2006

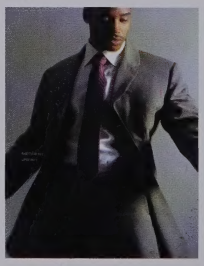
February 2007

January 2007

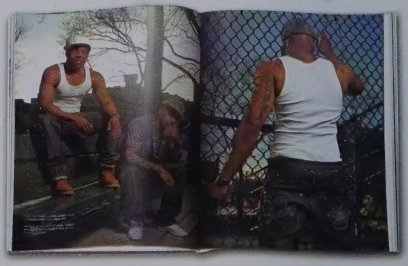
May/ June 2007

March 2007

September 2007



July/ August 2007



FASHION FORWARD

Our very first fashion cover featured Houston's Nestor Zapata, who was also instrumental in the initial success of Clikque from 1998-2000.

CLIK is one of the few of its kind to have men move on from the Super Bowl to the latest fashions for men, from across the nation. CLIK is a must-have, if you are to consider yourself a proper gentleman. The fashion previews are excellent, and featured columns give the average Joe access to practical fashion tips. Don't get confused CLIK is definitely more than a fashion magazine.

February 2006

(1) **ARTEC 500** This set comes with Poker Chips, Poker Cards and Dice $59.99 (2) **Nokia N90** Cell Phone Digital Camera, with bluetooth, 2 Megapixels 180 minutes of talk time. $629.99 (3) **Scosche UBRH Bluetooth System** Digital wireless connection for your portable player or cell phonetic your home stereo $99.95 (4) **Bowflex Select Tech 552 Dumbbells** $399.00 (5) **Canon Canoscan 9950F** Flatbed photo scanner $349.99 (6) **Canon** Power Shot SD30 with 5 megapixel digital camera $379.99 (7) **The GTR 3.0** All New GT R Archetype Design frame with Micro smooth welded lonesis 6061 butted Alumium tubing. $1565.00 (8) **BOSE** Acoustic Noise cancelling headphones. $396.99

July 2006

March 2007

May/ June 2007

December 2007

Fall 2005

December 2006

October 2007

September 2007

February 2008

Cast of Noah's Arc
Ground Breaking
Noah's Arc Returns to LOGO
"De-Gaga"
Eye Candy
Crystal Meth
Summit Reunion
Larenz Tate
Ricky
ONE BOX, ALL THE DE-GAGA
NOAH'S ARC
CLiK
Revamped!
Alex

INSPIRATIONAL

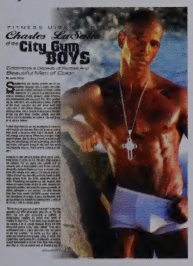
Patrick Ian Polk's Noah's Arc was featured on 3 covers of Clik Magazine. We were first publication to showcase this original series on the new Logo network

emancipation
Of Jonathan Plummer
He doesn't act, though he'd like to. He isn't a published writer, though he's working on getting his own publishing deal. He doesn't play professional ball or an instrument. He isn't a recording artist or a noted academic. Given his post-marital propensity for parties and lighter-fared celebrity limelight, he isn't on track to become anyone's activist or community leader. So, who is Jonathan Plummer—four months after his divorce from best selling author Terry McMillan—that we should care about his story? This is the question that initially ran through my mind when the publisher of this fine publication called me to interview the most infamously "outed" gay Jamaican in history. Provided a deadline from hell, I immediately plunged into the research for this story still slightly skeptical about the need to provide more media attention to a man Terry McMillan repeatedly described as a "sociopath" and a "habitual liar."
"Now I'm not afraid to embrace my sexuality. The way I went about it was wrong. I could have done it differently, but I feel the repercussions would have been the same," says Jonathan with regret about the fallout from his declaration that he is, not a bisexual man, but a gay man.

MOST CONTROVERSIAL

When the ex-hubby of literary diva Terry McMillan, Jonathan Plummer flaunt it and spilled the beans in March 2006 issue of CLIK, all hell broke loose. This issue was the most covered by other media outlets.

May/ June 2007



October 2007

March 2007

June 2006

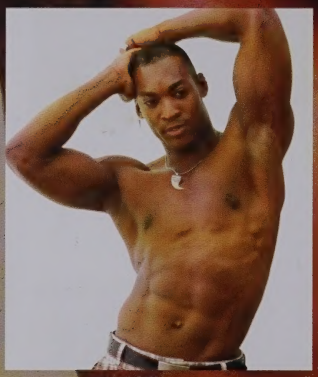
Phill Wilson
"I'm not interested in managing BET"
"I'm interested in stopping AIDS in the black community period."
50 Years Strong

March/ April 2006

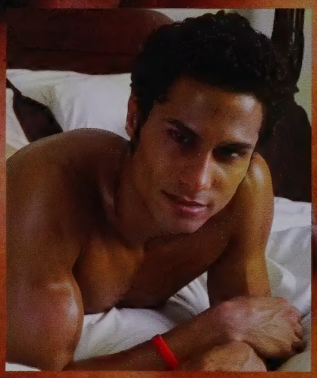
February 2008

RL BOND JAN07

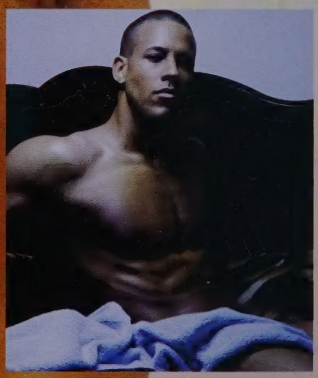
His name is Bond, RL Bond. RL Bond is a sizzling Tampa Bay model who recently won the 2006 Model Universe title in Miami. He has been featured as a model in Clik a total of three (3) times. RL started modeling after finishing college on a basketball scholarship. This model was encouraged by local commercial photographers to pursue a career in fashion and sports modeling. RL Bond has appeared in PlayGirl, many commercials, campaigns, BET, MTV, and other television shows. 2008 RL Bond has landed his biggest job, a worldwide Sean John Campaign and Lusters national campaign advertisement and at the age of 24 his career is just beginning to take off.



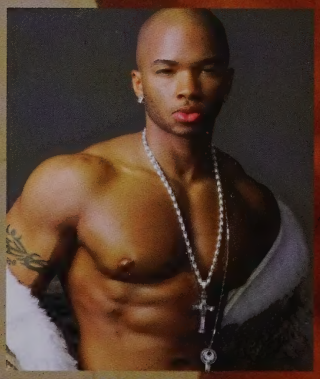
TYLER FALL05



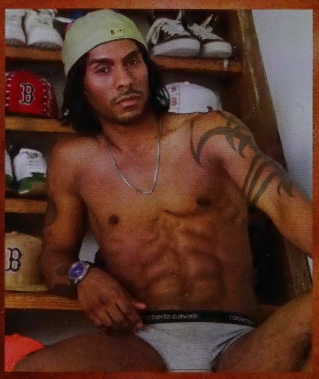
JASON FEB06



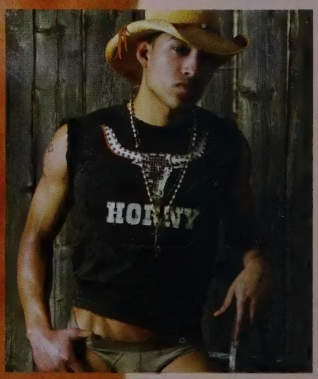
DANIEL WOOD MAY06



MAURICE JAN06



JASON FEB06



LAMAR APR07

February 2007

July/ August 2007

January 2007

CLiK FACTS

WHO'S GOT PRIDE?

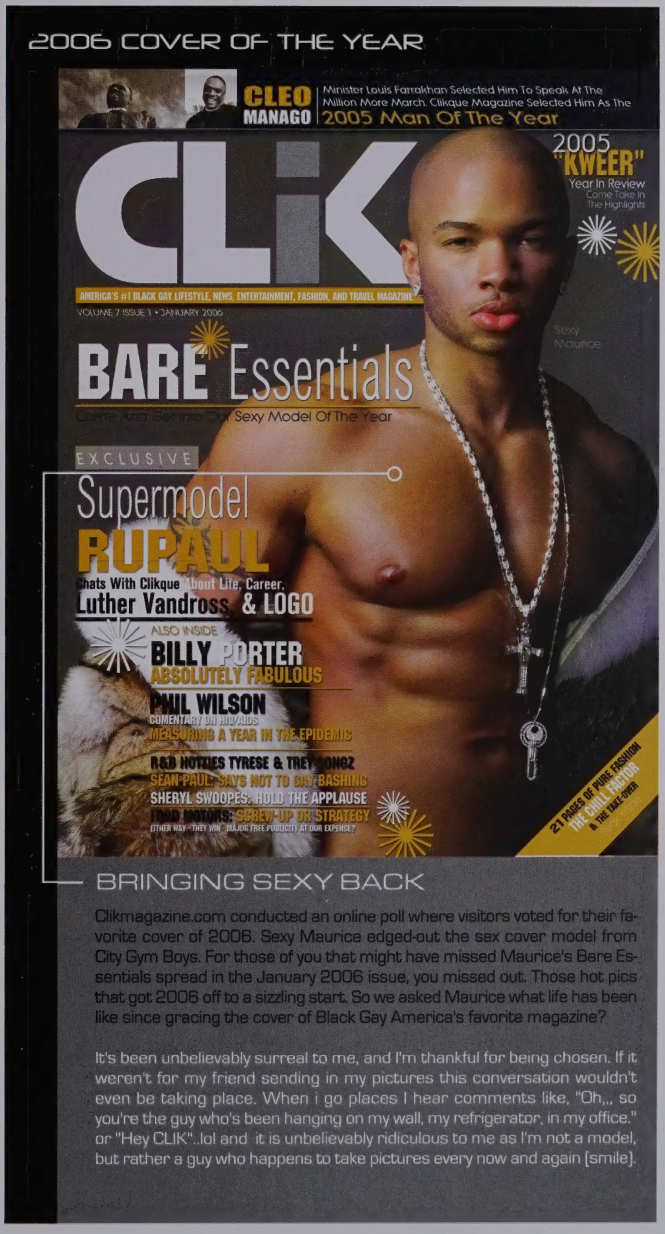
From 1998, Clikque quickly became the official guide to Atlanta's Black Gay Pride during the Labor Day Weekend. The first issue featured weight trainer Lance. But it was sexy Cory Scott that would be the number one Labor Day cover of all time in August of 1999.

LIFE'S A BALL

From day one, Clikque Magazine was a major force in the ballroom scene, showcasing the nation' best. Beginning with the legendary face of Whitney Mugler to Peppa Lebejia, and Andre Misrahi who graced the covers of Clik twice.

MOST REQUESTED COVER >>>>>>>>

CLIK Magazine's #1 discovery was Sexy Maurice who came on the in January of 2006 and quickly because the most sought-after cover in the magazine's history. This hot cover was shot by Karen Detrick and styled by fashion guru Curtis Davis, who because the first fashion Director.


2006 COVER OF THE YEAR
CLEO MANAGO
Minister Louis Farrakhan Selected Him To Speak At The Million More March. Clikque Magazine Selected Him As The 2005 Man Of The Year
CLiK
2005 "KWEER" Year In Review Come Take In The Highlights
AMERICA'S #1 BLACK GAY LIFESTYLE, NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, FASHION, AND TRAVEL MAGAZINE
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2006
BARE Essentials
Sexy Model Of The Year
EXCLUSIVE
Supermodel
RUPAUL
Luther Vandross & LOGO
ALSO INSIDE
BILLY PORTER
ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS
PHIL WILSON
MEASURING A YEAR IN THE EPIDEMIC
R&B HOTTIES TYRESE & TREY SONGZ
SEAN PAUL: SAY'S NOT TO GAY-BASHING
SHERYL SWOOPES: HOLD THE APPLAUSE
21 PAGES OF PURE FASHION
THE CHILL FACTOR
& THE TAKE OVER

BRINGING SEXY BACK

Clikmagazine.com conducted an online poll where visitors voted for their favorite cover of 2006. Sexy Maurice edged-out the sex cover model from City Gym Boys. For those of you that might have missed Maurice's Bare Essentials spread in the January 2006 issue, you missed out. Those hot pics that got 2006 off to a sizzling start. So we asked Maurice what life has been like since gracing the cover of Black Gay America's favorite magazine?

It's been unbelievably surreal to me, and I'm thankful for being chosen. If it weren't for my friend sending in my pictures this conversation wouldn't even be taking place. When i go places I hear comments like, "Oh,,, so you're the guy who's been hanging on my wall, my refrigerator, in my office," or "Hey CLIK"..lol and it is unbelievably ridiculous to me as I'm not a model, but rather a guy who happens to take pictures every now and again (smile).

PLAYING SUIT

PHOTOGRAPHY OF JERRY BOLES

MODEL: ANDEROS PORTEZ

K
MODEL ALEX RIOS

K
K
MODEL: NIJAE LOPEZ

L'Engle Certain Women

Jerry Boles

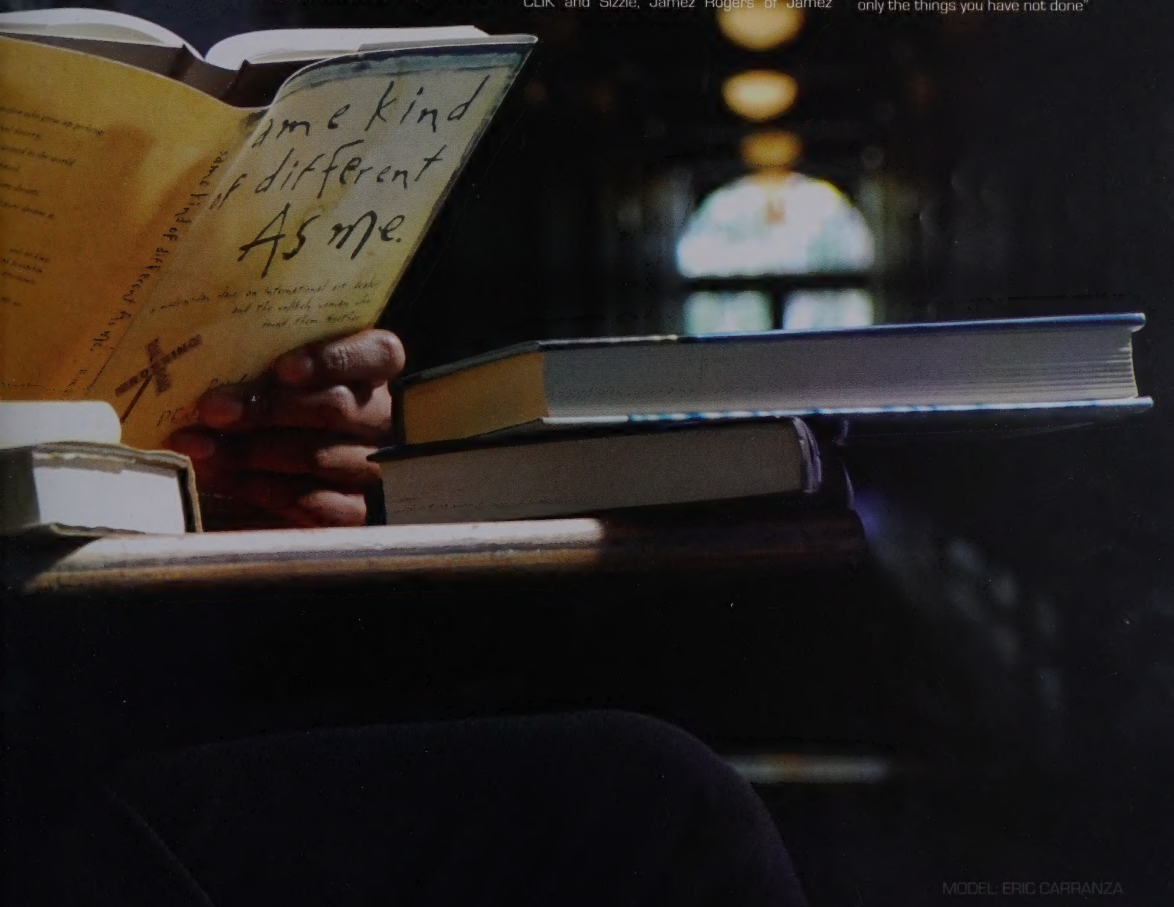
About the Photographer

"I picked up the camera one day. It was something different for me. I slowly look through the viewfinder and the world looked so different. Nothing I have ever seen before." These are the words of world renown photographer Jerry Boles with almost 20 years of experience in the Fashion, Beauty, Entertainment and Modeling Industry.

Jerry Boles started his career in modeling during the late 70s whereas he works directly with Tony Mitchell Productions. Tony Mitchell Productions had several business entities under this umbrella (Beauty Salon, Fashion Couture Line, Modeling Troupe, Television and Radio Show).

From 1979 through 1982, Jerry Boles traveled the United States working side by side with Tony discovering and developing new talents. The Tony Mitchell Show aired weekly and would highlight new talent. In 1982, Jerry Boles started MODELS WORLD a club for models. Models World was a place where aspiring models could network with industry professionals. Models World played a significant part in discovering, developing new models for some of the top agencies in Chicago. In 1985, Jerry Boles met Antonella Pizzoli from Milan, Italy. Antonella's images graced many covers of leading magazines around the world. Antonella's worked with some of the top Fashion Designers in Milan and in Paris. Jerry study Antonella's style with great interest and begin to learn the basic techniques of film photography. Jerry worked with three major photographer houses as a production assistant and graphic art photographer for several years before venturing out as freelance photographer. Eventually, Jerry made a different career path that would take him far away from his passion. In the spring, of 2000 Jerry produced one final Fashion Show before making the decision to relocate. After several trip to Atlanta, Jerry finally made that decision in February 2001. "I wanted people to focus more on my photography and less on my skills as a producer of Fashion Shows. Landing in Atlanta surely was not an easy transition. It took nearly three years to rebuild my reputation" The first major assignment was shooting the cover of CLIK Magazine, Cleaning of Mind, Body and Soul and eventually [illegible] Sizzle in 2005 just really pushed my [illegible] the forefront. Once the name "Jerry Boles Photography" started getting around, bookings were jumping off the wall. People like Ray and Eric (two of my closet friends) alone with Dwight of CLIK and Sizzle, Jamez Rogers of Jamez Rogers Production, John, Greg of Xtreme, USconcept, and Maurice Cook of EM Designs, Rudy of NAESM, ITLA, and The Crew of Traxx of Atlanta. Leon Parham, all that played a key role in the success of Jerry Boles Photography.

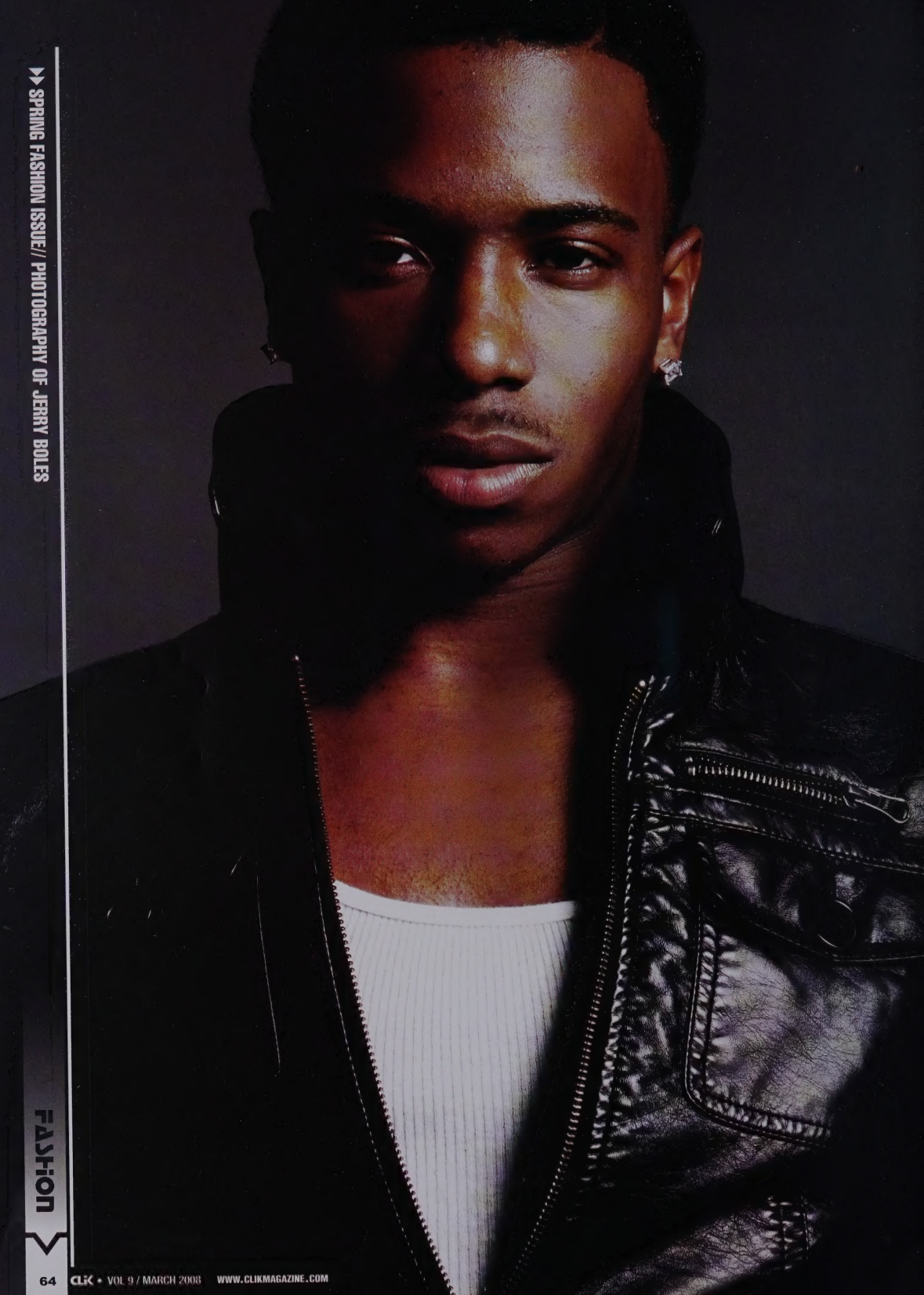
As a former gang member from the Washington Park Projects, one of Chicago's poorest and roughest neighborhoods, I am truly thankful that God took me from a place where even today, I still tear up just thinking about it. God have blessed me by putting the right people in my life. I am so thankful to have friends, business associates and advisors that keep me grounded. If I can say one thing to inspire someone, it would be "Never regret the things you done, only the things you have not done"



MODEL: ERIC CARRANZA

Ace of
SPADES
MODEL: ALEX RIOS

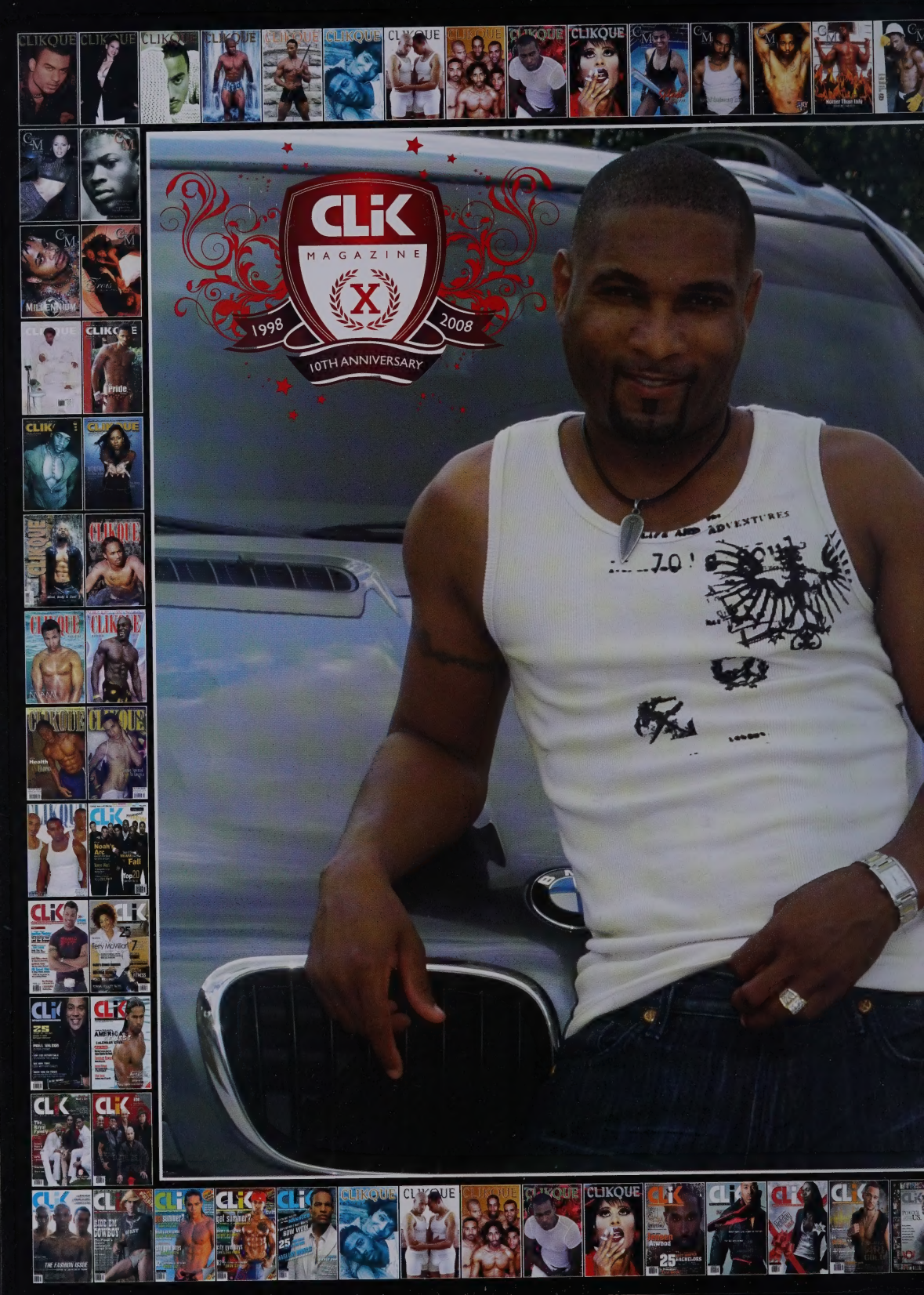
A DURABLE FIRE
The letters of Duff and Diana Cooper 1913-1950
FAYE KELLERMAN
JUSTICE
LUCIAN K.
TRUSCOTT IV

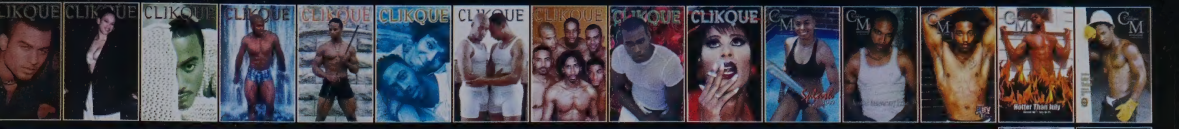


MODEL: DEVEAR PETERS

PHOTOGRAPHY, STYLING & GROOMING: Jerry Boles

MODELS: Chauncey Atkins, Alex Rios, Nijae Lopez, Eric Carranza, Devear Peters, Anderos Portez


CLIK
MAGAZINE
X
1998
2008
10TH ANNIVERSARY



Going out with a bang, on my terms and on my time

From our modest beginning in Houston, Texas in 1998, *Clikque*, now Clik has evolved into America's most recognized and respected publication in the Black gay community. As you might imagine, this feat has not come easy. However, in spite of the many challenges over the years, I can truly say that I would travel the same road again. From the bottom of my heart, without an ounce of regret, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for 10 years of love, support and encouragement.

Publishing this magazine has been a dream come true; to honor, recognize, uplift and highlight the Black Gay Experience in America. This magazine came OUT around a time when Black Gay men were ashamed, in hiding, and greatly underrepresented. After ten years, all of that have changed. Changed in part to the diligence, tenacity, and drive of our magazine as we aspired to be the best, command respect, and garner appreciation from the audience we serves and beyond. Today our community is vibrant, out, and proud.

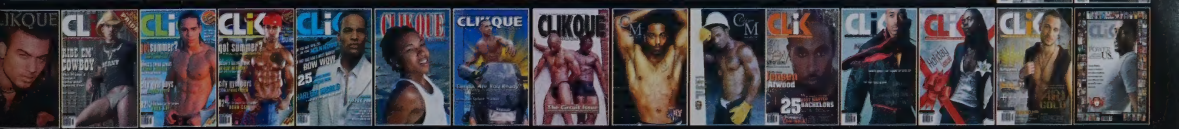
As with everything, all good things must eventually come to an end. Yes, Clik Magazine had reached the end of the road that it's been traveling since May of 1998. I am elated to say that our job here is done. We've inspired, motivated, informed, educated, and entertained, which from day one, have been my objectives. To that end, I've succeeded. This is especially evident with the dawn of gay bloggers and e-zines that are taking our experience to another stratosphere, and mush faster. To fast for print magazines to keep-up with, as technology has elevated publishing to everyone simply with the touch of a mouse.

I am excited and saddened all at the same time. Sad that this issues closes this chapter of my life, but however, excited of the future and possibilities that awaits me. As I say farewell to you, my good friends, I must first express my gratitude to the many people that have been instrumental in not only the success, by longevity of this publications. From my past love Nestor Zapata to my love of today Luis Medrano. Who I owe my heart for the years of support and unwavering dedications. Special thanks to my best friend Rod Martin who has had my back thru the many ups and downs. Thanks to Lewis Nicholson, Scott Bogan, Derrick Goodley, James Martin, Charles Ingram, Derrick Miles, Grover Fortenbarry, Jerry Boles, and especially to the late Don Sneed whose support kept us afloat for many years. Thanks is extended to my "Apprentice", Lorenzo Turner, ex-assistant Cordell McClary, the talented Curtis Davis and the hundreds of writers, photographers, models, and other professionals that have assured our place in history. Finally, thanks to the advertisers, subscribers and readers of Clik, because without your support we could not have evolved to this level of success.

Thanks for the memories

Dwight Powell

Publisher / Editor-In-Chief
Clik Magazine 1998-2008



TEN YEARS OF DOMINANCE
CLIK
America's #1 Black Gay Lifestyle, News, Entertainment, Fashion, and Travel Magazine
THE POWER OF US.
A Visual Public Awareness Campaign Featuring Images By Duane Cramer and Presented By The National Black Justice Coalition
Through diligence, tenacity, and hard work, Clik aspires to be superior, command respect, and garner appreciation from the audiences it serve and beyond.
CLIK MAGAZINE
1998
2008
10TH ANNIVERSARY
Style Flair Substance

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